

1960-1969 VACAVILLE

THE PAST CENTURY

Psychedelic '60s erupt onto Vaca landscape

By Richard Rico / Editor & Publisher

Take the liberating Roaring '20s, the debilitating Depression '30s, the devastating war-torn '40s and the rejuvenating fab '50s. Put them in a box and turn up the volume.

Hello, Saigon-splitting, scion-assassinating, space-walking, sociopathic, scintillating, hirsute '60s.

And for good measure, throw in a little sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll.

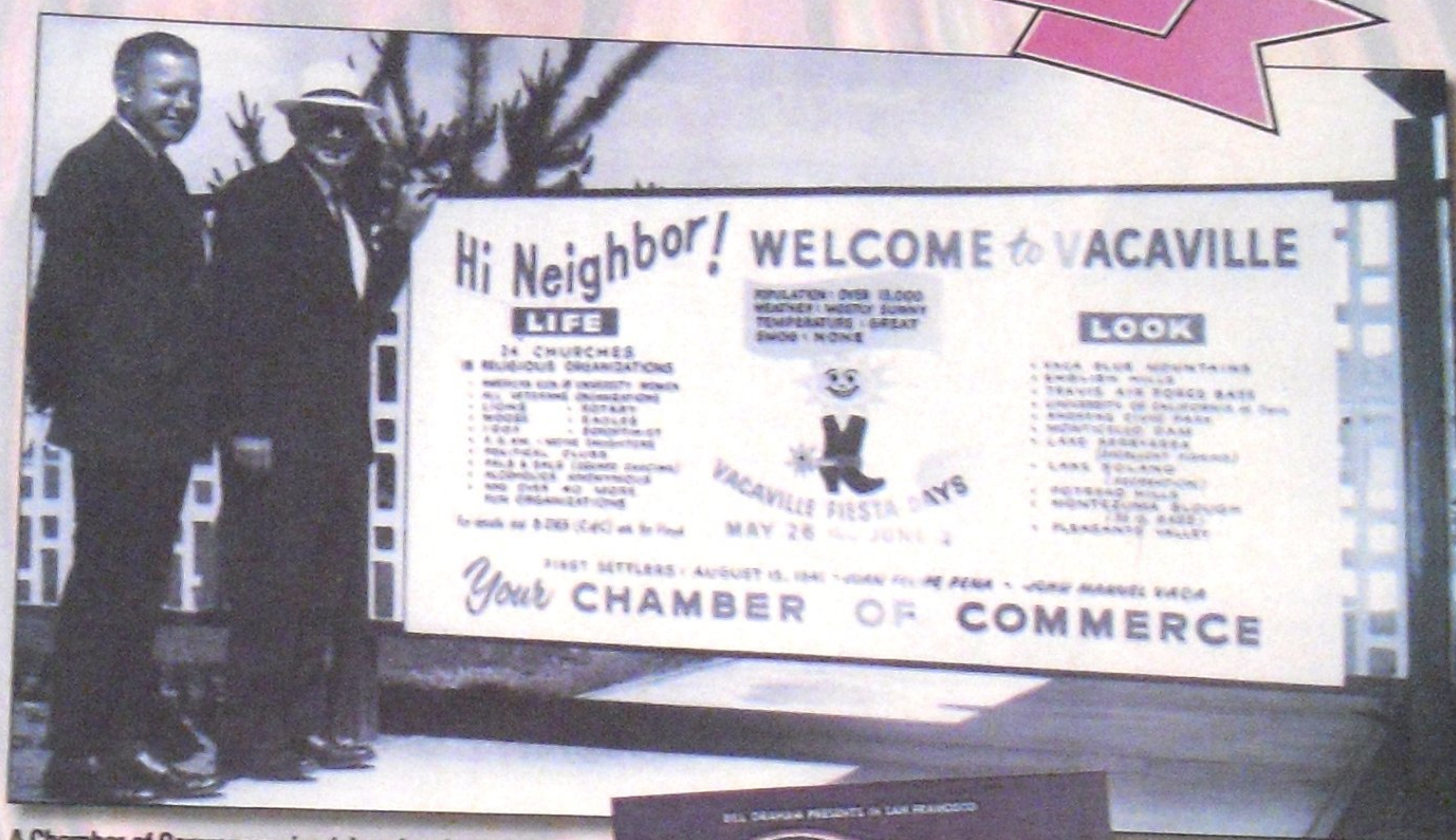
More? Flower power, free love,

"Scarborough Fair," Lava lamps and Nehru jackets. Good riddance to Nehru jackets.

It was the decade of

our levitation: Even without chemical assistance we went through life suspended in space. John Glenn went into orbit, Neil Armstrong stepped on the ruddy face of the moon and Vacaville politics went ballistic.

We all felt the one big hole in our collective gut after President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was shot in his



A Chamber of Commerce sign (above) welcomes newcomers to Vacaville in 1962, while music by the Grateful Dead and Jefferson Airplane became more prominent. Local girls — known as Nixonettes — backed Richard Milhous Nixon for state governor in 1962. John Glenn (left) helped usher in a whole new era, one of space travel.

parade car from the Dallas Book Depository. We hung on scraps of news, on conspiracy theories, on reports of more than one shot from a grassy knoll. We were caught in the same nightmare, then sunk into the same, deep blue funk over a weekend of mourning. We had to turn away from the relentless television coverage when the commentator's voice broke as the flag-draped coffin was carried down the Capitol steps.

The unreality seemed to have no end. Soon after we watched in disbelief as Jack Ruby jumped in front of the camera and shot alleged assassin Lee Harvey Oswald at point- (See '60s, Page 8)



The building at the corner of Main and Bernard streets in downtown Vacaville, shown in 1960, was built in 1912 and torn down in the early 1970s.



The groovy, sensational '60s

Social upheaval, a war in a foreign land a half world away and rock 'n' roll, all a part of a wild, wild decade.

The 1960s brought with it the coming of Leisure Town, more water for area crops and the death of prominent Vacans. The city struggled over redevelopment issues and put up a new City Hall. The Sierra Children's Home

opened its doors and hearts to orphaned and abandoned children.

And a local boy went to "the show." It was a decade of a sometimes jarring awakening.

In the latest installment of "Vacaville: The Past 100 Years," The Reporter looks at the 1960s. Assemble this and other chapters in this extensive collection devoted to Vacaville history.

Vietnam & Travis

Vacans fought in yet another war. / Pages 4 & 5

Blooming land

Water from Lake Berryessa help local crops grow. / Page 12

Retirement

Leisure Town is built and homeowners begin moving in. / Page 19



Preserving history

Effort gathers steam to protect pioneer home. / Page 24

LITHIA TOYOTA OF VACAVILLE

1966

The U.S. Motor Vehicle Safety Act is passed.

The U.S. Motor Vehicle Safety Act mandates seatbelts, energy absorbing steering columns & dashboards, warning flashers & head restraints on cars sold in the U.S.



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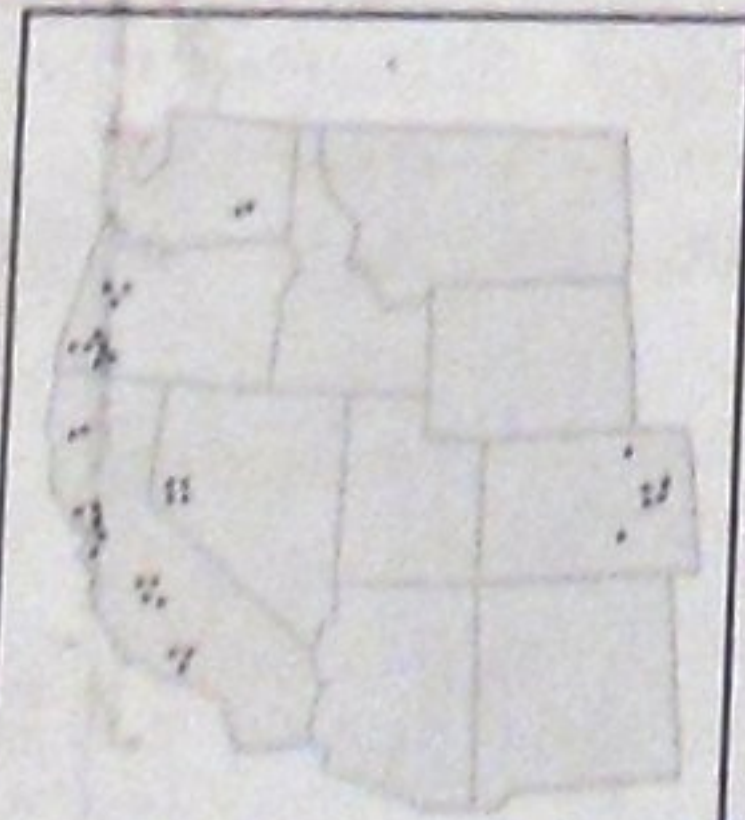
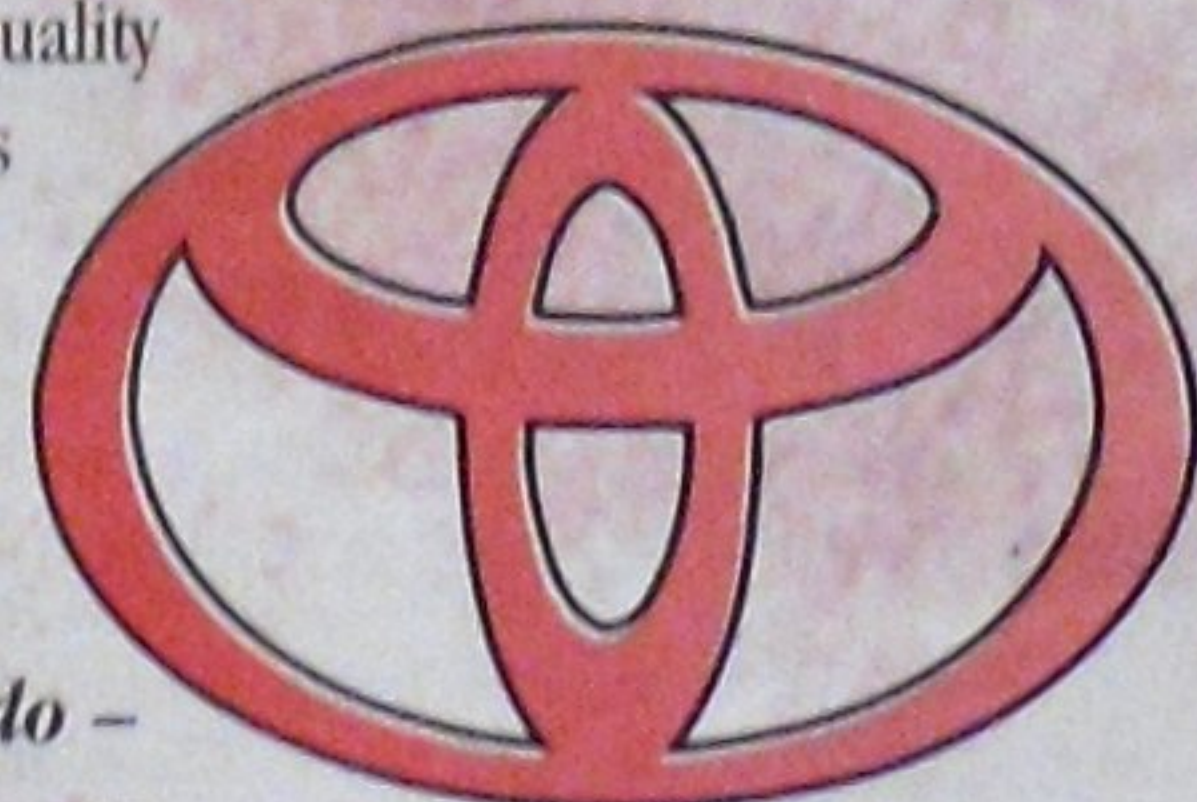
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1960-1969

THE PAST CENTURY

Greater wealth, passionate protests

Decade's extremes made '60s an icon

By Sean Gillespie/Staff Writer

The 1960s weren't a decade but a statement:

Ike and Joseph McCarthy were out; Ike Turner and Eugene McCarthy were in.

President Eisenhower and the Wisconsin senator were symbols of a period of stability and conservatism that restrained post-World War II American culture in the 1950s. But in the '60s, youth-led social change swept at a twister's pace across the country, carving a path for brash entertainers and the unpolished politician.

Trends of the Times

In the '60s, the status quo simply would not do.

Across the board, standards were changed. Boundaries were stretched or broken — even in Vacaville.

Local residents on the whole realized during the decade of mind and space travel that they and their fellow Americans no longer had to focus their worries on saving every penny to make ends meet.

Instead, there was money left over at the end of the month after bills. It could be spent toward a car (or two), or a color television or an array technological advances that made life just a little bit easier.

By the end of 1968, more than 78 percent of Solano County families reported disposable incomes exceeding \$5,000 after taxes.

A study by the Federal Bank of Chicago, cited in The Reporter in 1969, reported that family budgets nationwide were twice what they had been in 1954. Forty percent of the increase was deemed inflation, with the remaining 60 percent was attributed to a much higher standard of living.

And as living standards soared, so did expectations in every corner of society.

Machines in space soon were followed by men in space. Eventually the world witnessed the improbable moon walk.

On Earth, young people sought to test the limits of their personal chemistry, ingesting various stimulants and hallucinogens that many people had never heard of. Where alcohol had been the common high of choice, LSD and marijuana were making inroads, according

to The Reporter.

In the classroom, the challenges were philosophical. Some students fought against perceived curricular inequalities. Others bucked affluence and held the establishment responsible for not doing more to distribute wealth to those who lacked it.

"We're in the Sick Sixties Syndrome," surmised Dr. Max Rafferty, the state superintendent of public instruction, in a January 1967 address to Jaycees at the Yolo County Fairgrounds about a relaxing of moral standards throughout the country.

"We are a sick society. We are bored... bored stiff. With all the sex stimulants we have, we should be raked up all the time. The faster jets fly, the faster people go crazy. The more LSD we have to ward off boredom the more bored we get. It all boils down to apathy."

The '60s began rather mildly. Youth alienation — a standard issue of contention throughout the ages — was prominent in local discussions, as were education and taxes.

The Rev. Lawrence A. Ryan of St. Mary's Catholic Church said in January 1960 that adults

talking about youth's "going to the dogs" was nothing new. He referred to a 1909 article bemoaning young peoples' lack of respect for their parents.

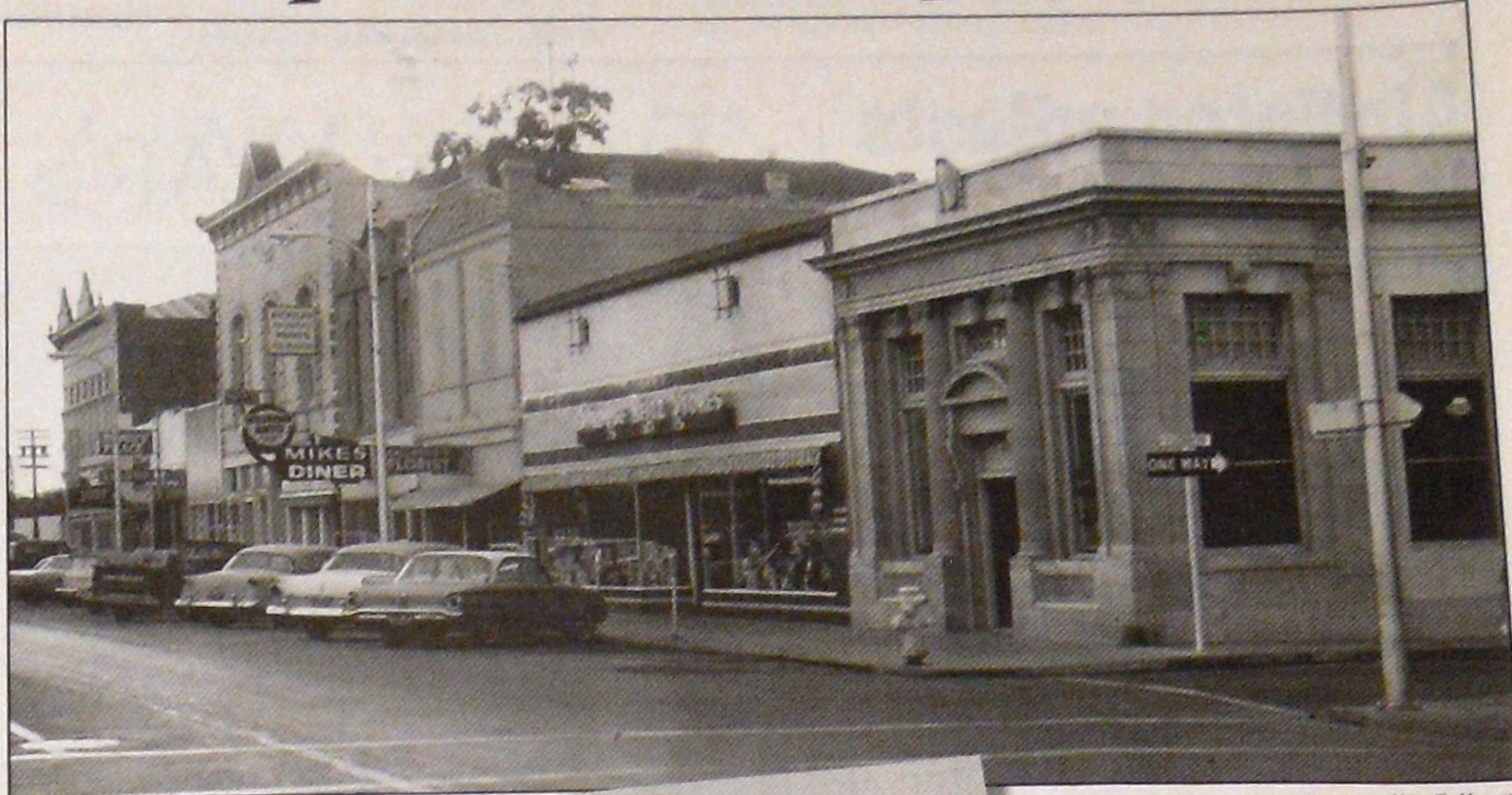
"People are the same in every age... and the youth of today will doubtless grow up to worry about the next generation."

Likewise, a Reporter editorial in February 1960 warned readers about political rhetoric attempting to plant seeds

of doubt about the establishment.

"Despite the fact that we're being overtaxed by the government and that the price we pay for everything has skyrocketed in the past 10 years, most of us are still much better off than we were at the start of 1950... The great increase in savings of all kinds indicates that thrift is becoming a major factor in the American way of life... But despite all of the campaign oratory you have heard thus far or will hear in the months ahead, we must all agree that we're rolling along at a comfortable pace."

Affluence was the term used most often to described the



Main Street in Vacaville was a quiet place in 1962, belying the turmoil simmering under the surface.

country's thriving economy.

Abundance of wealth and riches never before had reached so far. The average Joe couldn't be satisfied with a washer and dryer. He now needed a second car, a console stereo and new clothes for every occasion.

The push for the material was moving so fast that even teenagers saw a boom in charge accounts. Some plans permitted as much as \$100 in credit for kids as young as 12. In 1960, plans were offered by 63 percent of 217 department stores surveyed in Seventeen magazine — more than double the percentage for 1959. By November 1969, teens were found to be spending \$16.4 million a year at stores across Solano County.

A Reporter editorial in August 1960 admonished its readers to be wary of the credit trend.

"Obviously the credit plans have their defenders in the business world. They are supposed to teach the youngsters how to live in our new credit economy. But others view the trend with great alarm. One New York banker told a Congressional subcommittee it is 'something like teaching the young to use narcotics.'... Something tells us a good many parents will rally their forces to nip in the bud this youth movement in the credit buying field, if only out of self preservation."

Young people of the 1960s exercised much more than their buying power. They also discovered their considerable political power.

Discontent and willing to (See Wealth and Protests, Page 8)

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The 1960s brought greater affluence to Americans. The extra income allowed local residents to purchase their own home, even one with a second bathroom and family room as advertised Nov. 11, 1960 (above left). Families began buying second cars, such as the Mustang in this March 7, 1968, ad (above). But young people turned against the established order, wearing clothing that was lampooned in this May 2, 1968, editorial cartoon (left).

Statistics and stories tell of increasing drug use in Solano

By Sean Gillespie/Staff Writer

As "getting high" became a national trend in the '60s, Vacaville and other Solano County communities tried to keep their youth a little more grounded by fighting what they saw as a most imposing threat by the end of the decade.

Drug arrests across the state skyrocketed in 1967 for both adults and juveniles, setting a new record for the first years the statistics had been tracked. Statewide, 47,032 adults were arrested as well as nearly 14,760 juveniles — a 175 percent increase from the previous year.

The highest number of arrests were related to marijuana, for which juvenile arrests jumped from 4,034 in 1966 to 10,987 in 1967.

That's when Vacaville responded to

the trend.

The Reporter published a brief article about four Vacaville police officers who planned to take a nine-hour course taught by a state narcotics investigator on identification, relevant court decisions and information about the sale and possession of drugs.

A wire story in the same edition reported that drug arrests statewide had reached new highs.

In the April 3, 1967, edition of The Reporter, Vacaville police Capt. Bill McCord said he was "fairly certain" incidents of marijuana use here were unfounded rumors. However, officials in neighboring communities said marijuana use was on the rise because "the stuff is pretty easy to get in San Francisco."

Such dismissals of an epidemic drew the ire of the local newspaper later that month.

"The inroads being made among our teenage population in the use of LSD and marijuana is becoming appalling, yet there seems to be complacency in high federal and state circles to realize just what is going on. The attitude seems to be 'Forget it, everything will be all right.'"

"Responsible officials should institute a concerted effort to crack down on the source of both LSD and marijuana, and in no uncertain terms deal harshly with those found guilty of this traffic, whether they be teenagers or adults."

A narcotics expert — talking about the rise in youth drug use at a community meeting in February 1968 — criticized national magazines for glorifying the effects of drugs and recommended inventories of family medicine cabinets.

Alcohol causes more problems than any other drugs combined, he said. But he discussed everything from sniffing

glue to drinking canned heat and antifreeze to "marijuana, heroin, pot, weed, LSD and alcohol" to smoking banana peels and hydrangeas.

A few days before the narcotics expert spoke, a University of California, Davis, law professor addressed the Vacaville Rotary Club, calling narcotics a "social and moral problem." He said police were spending too much time cracking down on drug users.

"We're wasting police officers on something that should not be treated as a crime but as a social problem to be dealt with in the church, schools and in the home," Prof. Frank Baldwin said.

Coincidentally or not, many crime figures in Vacaville rose from 1967 to 1968. Robberies, burglaries, rapes, murders and assaults and batteries jumped to a total of 125 incidents, up 48.3 percent from 1967. Felony narcotics arrests rose from six to 23, while misdemeanor

drug arrests increased from 7 to 15.

And as drug use escalated in Vacaville, the fallout became more prominent on the pages of The Reporter.

Readers consumed tales such as one that related how two Vacaville High School students were taken to the hospital, violently ill from taking over-the-counter Asthmador for a drug "trip."

Two other young Vacaville men were arrested for drug possession and sales when nine local police officers raided their Steiger Hill Road home around 2 a.m. After several weeks of observation, the officers moved in and seized mescaline, LSD and methamphetamine.

In August 1969, a headline declared, "Narc-Squad Is Born" after Solano County mayors, supervisors and police chiefs consented to a countywide narcotics enforcement team modeled after one already established in Marin County.

Vacaville: A Glance BACK

1960

■ First "Industrial Progress Day" held to encourage industry to locate here.

1961

■ The biggest annexation in city's history made Vacaville one-third larger as the Nut Tree and Leisure Town properties became a part of the city.
■ "Black Saturday" brush fires on Sept. 2 burned more than 95,000

acres and destroyed at least 10 homes.

1962

■ A ballpark at California Medical Facility opens for Babe Ruth Youth Baseball League. Ultimately, it is named Keating Park.
■ In April, a valve is opened, and the first Solano Project irrigation water flows into Vaca Valley.
■ A plan to renovate downtown build-

ings leads to the political fight of the decade and a recall election for City Council.

■ Ulatis Creek Bridge is completed.
■ The Sierra Children's Home opens in October.

1963

■ Leisure Town opens, and the first residents move in.
■ Markham School opens.

1964

■ The Vacaville portion of the six-lane Interstate 80 is completed.
■ A site near California Medical Facility in Vacaville is selected for a maximum-security state prison to be in operation by 1967. The project is delayed until the 1980s.
■ Parking meters are removed from the downtown area in an experiment that becomes permanent.

Air Force adjusts local operations

Solano County's oldest Air Force installation — known as Fairfield Air Force Station — will be dissolved effective July 1, it was announced this morning from Washington, D.C.

The old supply station, established before Travis AFB and maintaining its identity while a sprawling Air Force base grew around it, will become a part of Travis, it was announced.

Aside from the historical significance, it will mean the loss of jobs and 11 civilian employees and the re-assignment of 97 military personnel, all attached to the 3083rd Aviation Depot Group, which will be "folded."

Air Force headquarters in Washington assured the civilian workers, however, that they will receive assistance in relocating from the U.S. Civil Service Commission and the Air Force.

The 3083rd has been under the Air Force Logistics Command, a unit of separate identity than the Military Air Transport Service. Another logistics unit at FAFS — the 3096th Aviation Depot Squadron — will remain but will become a part of MATS.

The 3096th has 136 Air Force personnel and three civilians. Fairfield Air Force Station was established on a site adjacent to what is now known as Travis AFB in about 1940. It was the first Air Force installation in the Up-County area.

The Reporter
May 10, 1962

Travis pilot escapes as fighter jet crashes

A Travis AFB pilot who resides in Vacaville climbed out of his jet fighter plane uninjured Monday after he was forced to crash land on a lumber company airstrip near Ft. Bragg.

The pilot, Maj. Lemuel Krisle of 216 Plum Street, brought his F-102 Delta Dagger fighter-interceptor plane down on the airstrip, 2700 feet long, at the Union Lumber Company in Mendocino County.

The old army auxiliary airstrip was some 2300 feet short of the usual 5000 feet needed to land such a plane as the Delta Dagger.

A power failure made the plane's braking chute inoperative as a means of slowing the plane's speed, it was reported. The jet hit a low hill at the end of the landing strip, knocking off the plane's landing gear, forcing it into a skid and causing the plane to burst into flames. Maj. Krisle jumped clear of the jet fighter after it had come to a halt.

Residents notified the sheriff's office, where a message was relayed to Hamilton AFB officials who quickly rushed a fire fighting crew to put out the fire. The plane was a total loss.

A Hamilton based SA-16 helicopter used for air rescue operations took Maj. Krisle to the Travis AFB hospital for a checkup.

Maj. Krisle was recently transferred to Travis where he is a flight commander with the 82 Fighter Interceptor Squadron.

The Reporter
Nov. 21, 1962

Census in 1967 shows population of 19,567

The average Vacaville resident is 28-years-old, has a family income of between \$5000 and \$7500, is connected with the military, and spends most of his money locally.

While that description may not fit you, it does take into account every resident here, at least every resident here on Sept. 1 of last year.

The State Department of Finance has released its Selected Demographic and Housing Data report on Vacaville compiled on the basis of information obtained last year when it conducted an intensive door-to-door census here.

Its purpose was to establish, correctly, Vacaville's population. And that was 19,567 persons, a 77 per cent increase since 1960.

Local population has grown from 1608 to 1940 to 3169 in 1950, and to 10,898 in 1960.

And our 19,567 residents live in 5433 households, including the rather large accommodation provided here by the state Department of Corrections, California Medical Facility. That "household" accounts for about 2000 of our citizens. And while they add little to the local retail sales volume, they do each provide about \$13.25 for city coffers each year, through state subventions.

By Ken Brown, The Reporter
Sept. 16, 1968

TRAVIS: WAR'S WORKHORSE



Maj. Gen. J.A. Cunningham greets an airlift crew in July 1967 during a stopover at Travis on their 1,000th mission to Vietnam.

Candy to caskets, base handles it all

By Sally Miller Wyatt
Special to The Reporter

Military personnel at Travis Air Force Base near Fairfield were busy in 1962 preparing for "Operation Candy," an effort to deliver tons of donated sweets to children in Vietnam.

Seven short years later, personnel were performing much more than philanthropic missions within Southeast Asia.

Travis Air Force Base had become the nation's busiest military airport, as thousands of personnel and tons of military equipment and supplies were channeled through it each week on the way to Southeast Asia, according to "A History of Travis Air Force Base — 1943-1966" by Gary Leiser.

Virtually every aspect of life on base was affected by the war, Leiser wrote. Daily C-141 channel airlift service began between Travis and Tan Son Nhut Airport in Saigon on Aug. 3, 1965. The 7,500-mile trip took 18 hours and 15 minutes.

It wasn't quick enough by December 1965, when Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara ordered a daily Travis-Saigon mission devoted to super-priority cargo. Dubbed the "Red Ball

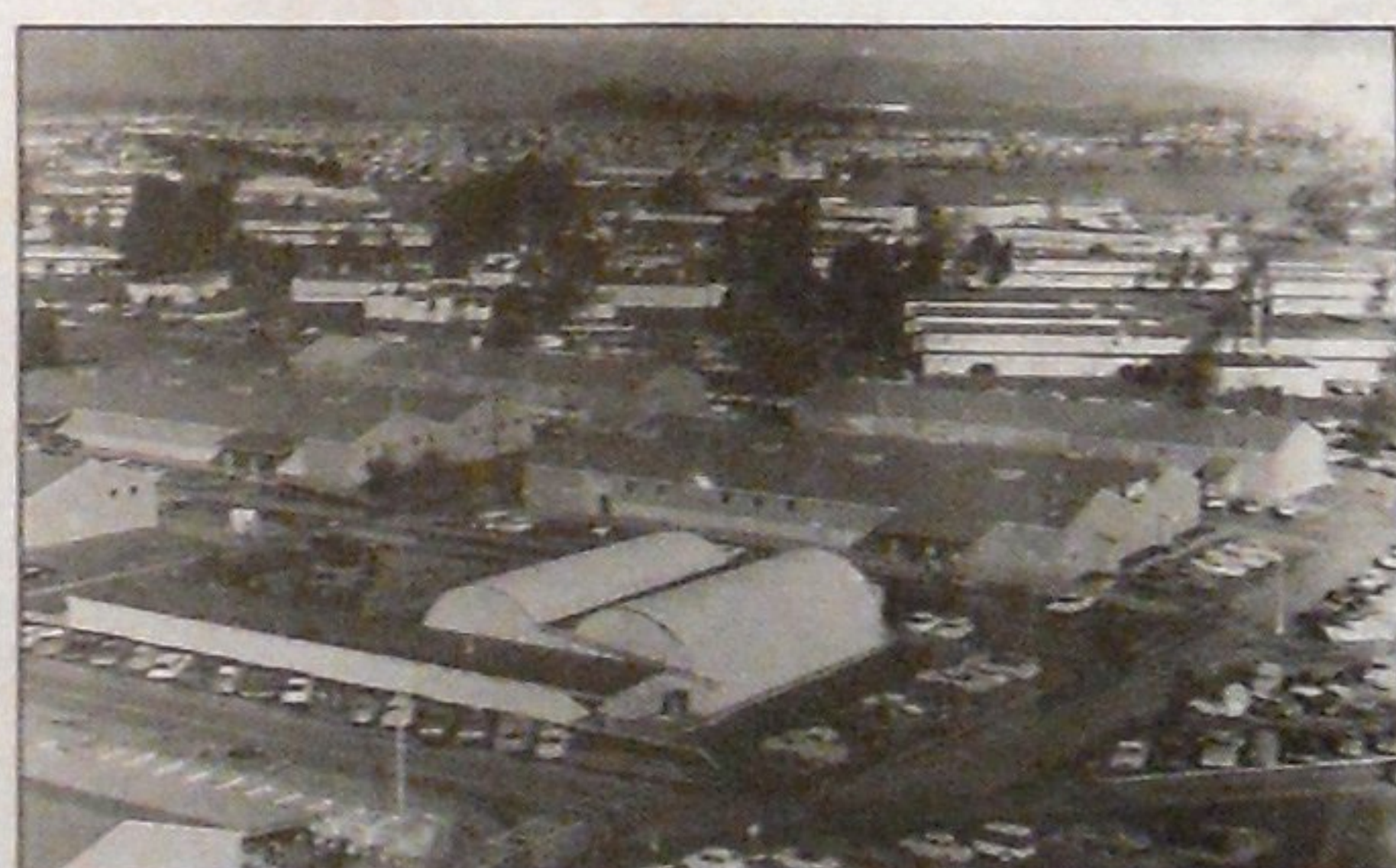
Express," more than 22 Red Ball flights were made between Dec. 8 and 31.

Air crews from the 60th Military Airlift Wing also participated in several major troop deployments between December 1965 and August 1968, including Operation Bluelight, which began on Dec. 23. During this operation, 2,952 troops and 4,479 tons of equipment were deployed to Pleiku in central Vietnam, and the 60th flew the vast majority of airlift missions.

The 60th also took part in Operation Eagle Thrust, which deployed 10,024 paratroops and 5,357 tons of support equipment in November and December 1967.

The war had a more sobering effect on Travis, Leiser noted. The base became the main West Coast terminus for aeromedical evacuation flights from Southeast Asia and the principal receiving station for military fatalities. In July 1966, Travis received 692 injured personnel; in February 1968, the number of injured received at Travis had mushroomed to 9,299, a result of the Viet Cong's Tet offensive in South Vietnam, Leiser wrote.

"In one 24-hour period, between 9 February and 10 February, MAC aircraft transported more than 600 IRHF (injured as the result of hostile fire) patients



This aerial photo shows Travis in 1969, when thousands of soldiers and tons of equipment passed through the base.

from Vietnam. This Herculean task required 159 C-142 flights, including 82 unscheduled last-minute missions," Leiser wrote.

Travis was, until 1970, the Army's sole receiving station for war dead on the West Coast and many fatalities were received here. According to Travis Mortuary Affairs Office records, 10,523 military caskets from Southeast Asia passed through the base in 1968 alone. Army casualties made up 73 percent of that number.

As the war wound down in the mid-1970s, the base and its personnel took on a changing role. Several squadrons assisted with the withdrawal from Vietnam and with the evacuation of Vietnamese refugees to the United States.

One crew from the 65th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron also took part in Operation Homecoming, "the emotional return of American pris-

oners of war from Hanoi between February and April 1973," Leiser wrote.

"The first three C-141s in Operation Homecoming touched down at Gia Lam Airport in Hanoi on 12 February 1973. Within two hours, they departed North Vietnam with the first 116 prisoners of war. After stopping at Clark ... the C-141s proceeded across the Pacific toward home. A crew from the 7th Military Airlift Squadron of the 60th Military Airlift Wing brought the first 20 returnees to Travis. At 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday 14 February, Valentine's Day, 1973, they landed at the base. As the first man, Navy Chaplain Jeremiah H. Denton strode down the ramp, he was greeted by a spontaneous round of cheers and applause from a crowd of more than 400 family members, friends and off-duty base personnel."

After graduating from Vaca High John and Rose's daughter, Janet started working full time at the flower shop learning, bookkeeping, sales and designing from their mother who had many years experience.

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1960s

Color, conditioners and hairgoods were growth areas for salons and Helen Curtis. The ColorMaster heat and light machine accelerated tinting and bleaching time. Quik Care, a silkening, smoothing conditioner and Sure Thing, a crisping lotion that added body established a new salon service — conditioning. Wigette, small human hairpieces and Nature Blend, led another new salon category. Helene Curtis Couture-Coiffure program promoted the relationship between hair and fashion. We introduced a young English stylist, Paul Mitchell, to cosmetologist with a nationwide beauty show tour, educational book and film.

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1965

- The "Black Thursday" fire destroys homes and threatens the historic Nut Tree and the 5th auto dealership.
- The Coffee Tree restaurant opens.

1966

- The Vacaville Art Gallery opens.
- Cal-State Airline begins regular scheduled commercial service to the Nut Tree Airport.

- American Home Foods opens.
- The first permanent traffic light in Vacaville is installed at the intersection of East Monte Vista Avenue and McClellan Street.
- Project Head Start comes to Vacaville.
- Padan School opens.
- A second city fire station opens.

1967

- A new city-owned ambulance service is started.

- The new post office on East Monte Vista Avenue opens.
- Vacaville lobbies for Lagoon Valley to be the location of the new junior college in Solano County. Vacaville loses out to Suisun Valley.

1968

- Black Panther leader Huey Newton is sentenced to two to 15 years for voluntary manslaughter in the slaying of a police officer and becomes an inmate at Vacaville's California Medical Facility.



1969

- Vacaville's new \$1 million civic center is opened on Merchant Street.
- Will C. Wood High School opens.
- Vacaville Heritage Council is formed.

"Young men face a 50-50 chance of military service. Personal and business plans should be lined up accordingly."

Roger Babson, nationally syndicated columnist,
The Reporter, Aug. 2, 1965



The family of Army soldier Samuel Papin Jr. of Vacaville received a memorial certificate after he died in Vietnam in the 1960s.

THE VIETNAM WAR YEARS

Surviving as nation fights abroad, with itself

By Sally Miller Wyatt
Special to The Reporter

Whatever the nation was enduring as it struggled through the tumultuous Vietnam War years, it could not compare to what countless families in Vacaville and across the country were forced to endure.

Vacaville sons and daughters fought in the war, died in the war and protested the war. There would be courts-martial and mutinies, demonstrations, Medals of Honor and, finally, memorial plaques.

No matter what their political stance, Vacaville had difficulty ignoring the escalating conflict, especially as the town sat in the shadow of Travis Air Force Base. By the end of the decade, Travis had become the nation's busiest military airport.

Although the Vietnam conflict had been escalating for years, it took on crisis proportions in July 1965, when President Johnson promised more aid to the embattled South Vietnamese government. Shortly thereafter, Travis went on "semi-war-time" alert status and daily airlifts between Travis and Tan Son Nhut Airport in Saigon began, according to Gary Lesier's "A History of Travis Air Force Base 1943-1966."

The concern for what the future would bring was mirrored in an Aug. 2, 1965, Reporter article written by nationally syndicated columnist Roger Babson and headlined "The War in Viet Nam and its Effects on Youth." U.S. forces are actively fighting, Babson noted, "and 75,000 are there now."

As for the future, Babson said

"The likelihood is they will be drafted ... Readers beware: President Johnson doesn't want to settle short of complete independence and freedom for South Viet Nam. Young men face a 50-50 chance of military service. Personal and business plans should be lined up accordingly."

Less than a year later,

Vacaville lost her first son in the conflict. Paratrooper Jack Gardner with the First Battalion, 503rd Airborne Infantry Regiment and son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gardner, was killed near Saigon in May 1966 on his first mission into Vietnam. A month later, a plaque in his honor was placed in Andrews Park. He was posthumously decorated with the Military Merit Medal and the Gallantry Cross with Palm in April 1967.

Over the next several years, The Reporter would run numerous articles outlining Travis's increasing role in the military effort. An August 1966 pictorial, entitled the "Long, Patient Wait," illustrated the steps soldiers returning from a tour of duty had to follow as they waited for rides to their home destinations. Two weeks later The

Reporter noted that Travis previously had moved about 1,000 personnel a month and that figure had mushroomed to 16,129.

Stories from 1966 to 1969 frequently

noted the names of area men and women who had enlisted or been drafted, completed their basic training, received their orders, were injured or killed or returned home safely.

There also were editorials that focused on the protests and their impacts: "Freedom Abuse Noticeable" was the headline on one from Sept. 8, 1966. An editorial from Aug. 26, 1967, noted that "anti-war demonstrations border on treason."

Vacaville natives stationed overseas wrote letters home, trying to explain what they were fighting for;

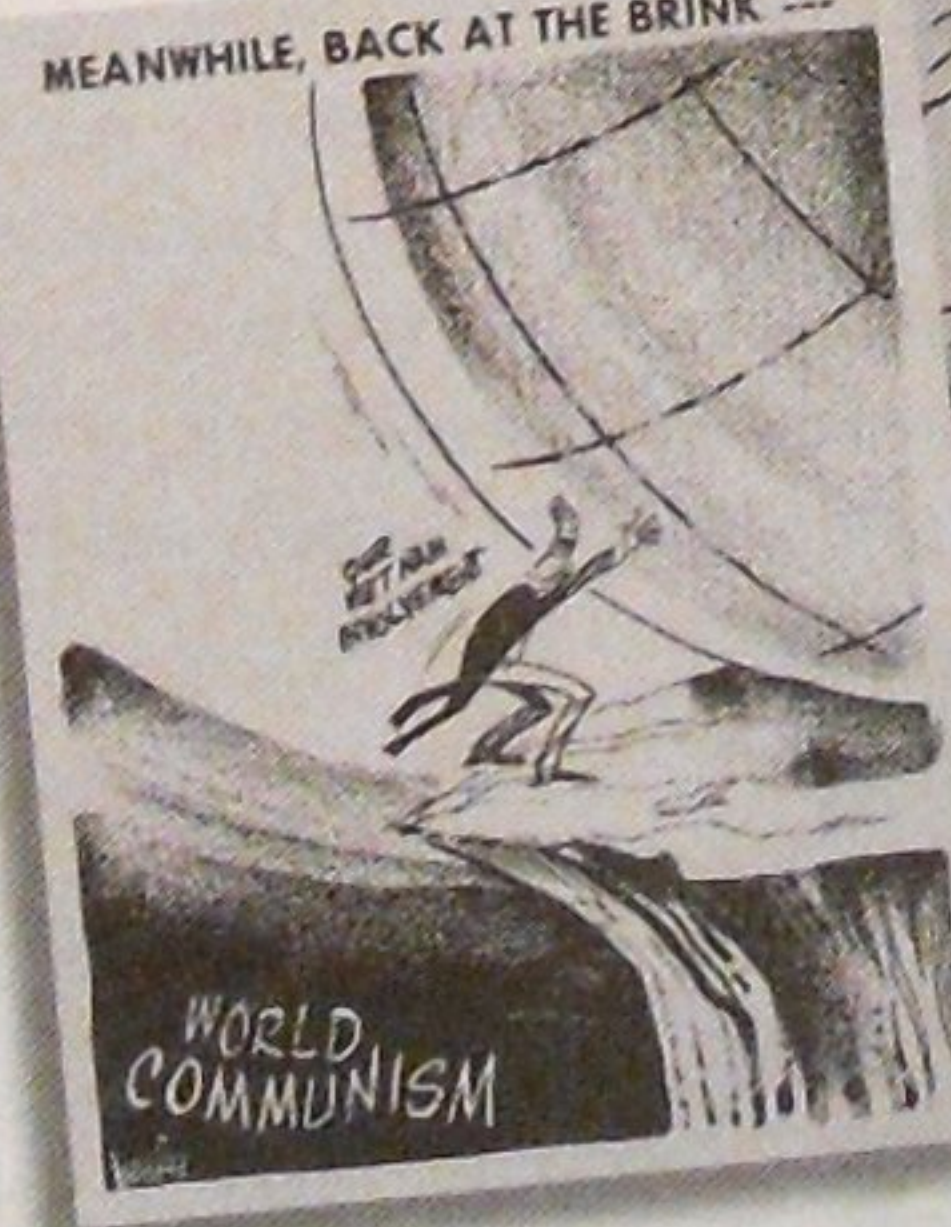
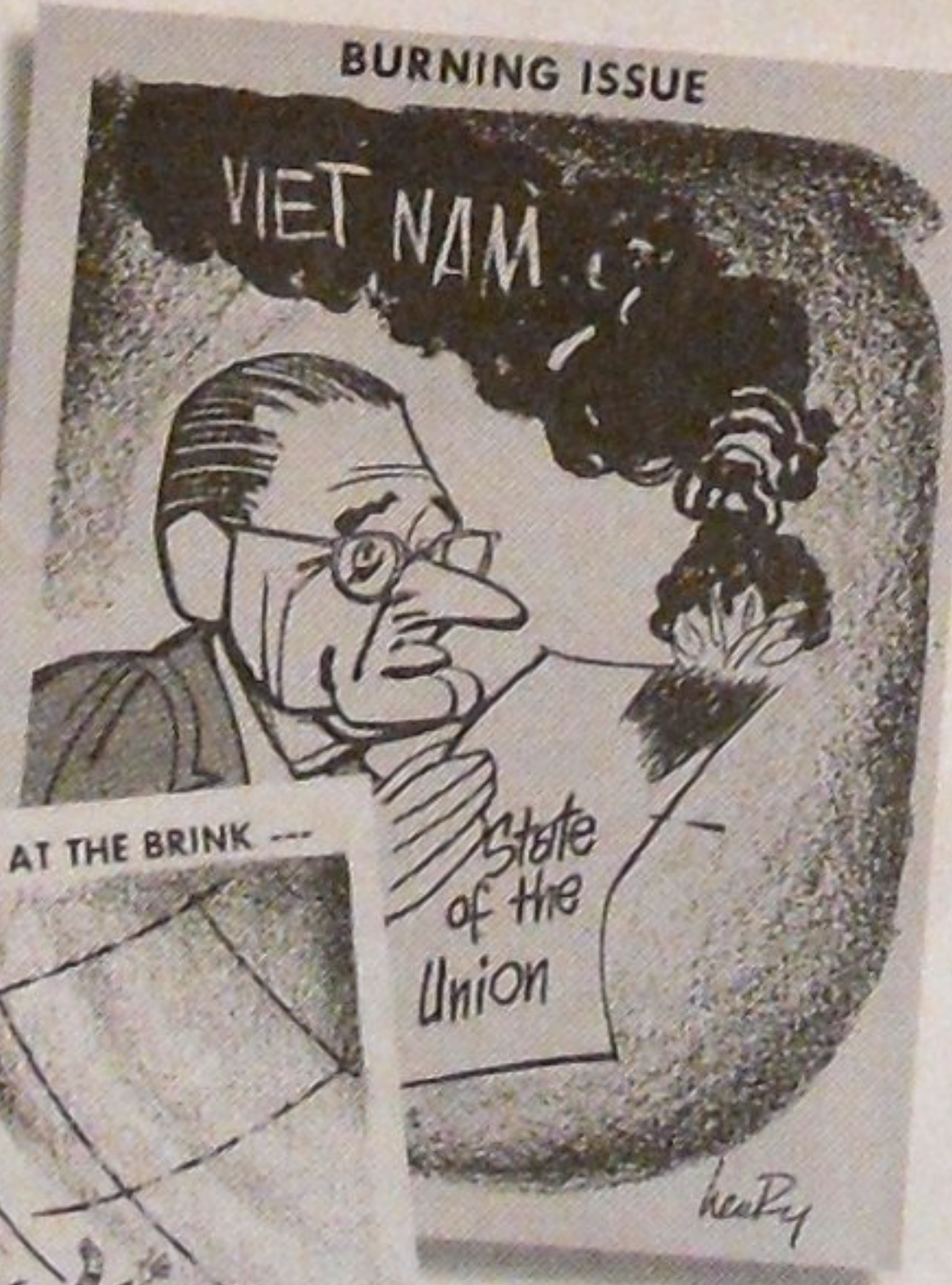
The 1960s were a turbulent time in this country. At the center of the conflict was the Vietnam War. Fighting communism was the topic of one editorial cartoon (far left) in the March 17, 1966, Reporter, while President Johnson's State of the Union address was the topic of another (left), this one published on Jan. 11, 1968.

"These protesters are unaware that the Communist Party has no future or feeling for people such as this little girl in the picture," wrote Sgt. James Roddam of Vacaville in November 1965.

Others commented on what should be done with draft card burners. "They should be punished," said Army Warrant Officer Emery Fisher of Vacaville in July 1967. Joe Brown, a correspondent for a news service and brother to Reporter Editor Ken Brown, wrote about life in Saigon and the Communists' apparent lack of concern for their own countrymen in a March 1966 article.

Students and the faculty at Solano Junior College held an anti-war talk in February 1967, and anti-war protesters held police at bay on Poplar Road near Leisure Town during a rally in November 1967. Two soldiers from Vacaville were found guilty of mutiny in 1969 when they took part in a sit-down protest at the San Francisco Presidio.

But as the 1960s drew to an end, Travis was not entirely focused on the Vietnam conflict. A February 1969 article noted that crews at Travis were readying themselves to participate in the Apollo mission to the moon, scheduled for July of that year.



Our students wasting their chance to learn

The rather raucous "new wave" that has been sweeping over many an American college campus has caused a great many Americans to wonder if our student generation understands what education is all about. Despite the evidence of the kooky sit-ins and demonstrations, it is pleasant to be able to report evidence that a great many of them, at least, do indeed understand.

A poll taken for a Washington, D.C., newspaper on the question, "Why should the young go on to college?" brought these results:

Seventy per cent of the parents interviewed replied, in effect, "so they can get a better job." Only 3 per cent felt college was important for the students' fullest development as human beings.

Among the students, however, the majority designated the broadening and enriching experience as the greatest value of a college education. About 20 per cent agreed with the parents on the bread and butter angle.

In analyzing what took place at the University of California several months ago, one begins to wonder just why many of our young men and women are going to college.

With our colleges lacking sufficient classrooms, it is confusing to the average citizen to comprehend just why the officials at UC tolerated this type of demonstration.

Perhaps we should begin to evaluate the moral character of prospective students as highly as we regard academic values, and we may come up with the answers which will be determining factors as to whether we want to waste time and money educating many of our young men and women.

Editorial, The Reporter
Sept. 2, 1965

VSS trash service begins for \$1.50 fee

A refuse disposal jigsaw puzzle belabored over three years was considered solved Tuesday night when the most troublesome pieces fell neatly into place.

The private firm, which collects garbage from local households — Vacaville Sanitary Service — was granted permission to purchase property on Hay Road known as "the John Brown property," thus taking the city out of dump site proprietorship.

The city also was removed from the trash collection business, financed by a complex franchise system, when Bernard Anselmo, VSS owner, offered to haul "everything" for the same \$1.50 fee per household now charged for garbage. Councilmen promptly accepted.

For the Vacaville resident, it means he will be able to throw all kinds of refuse into the same container if he wishes and collections will be made on a one-stop basis.

The Reporter
Feb. 25, 1965

Wine found after police rout 'hippies'

Vacaville police routed two groups of "long-haired, hippie-looking" teenagers from Andrews Park Saturday night and in their wake police found eight gallons of wine.

Acting on a complaint from a resident who reported "the park looks like Haight-Ashbury, full of out-of-town hippies," an officer arrived at the park about 8 p.m. and came upon a group of youngsters. They all dispersed when the officer came up. Behind them left three gallons of wine.

About an hour later the officer checked the park again, dispersed another group and found five gallons more.

The officer reported all the youths were apparently local, and under 21 years of age.

The Reporter
May 26, 1969

Do You Remember???

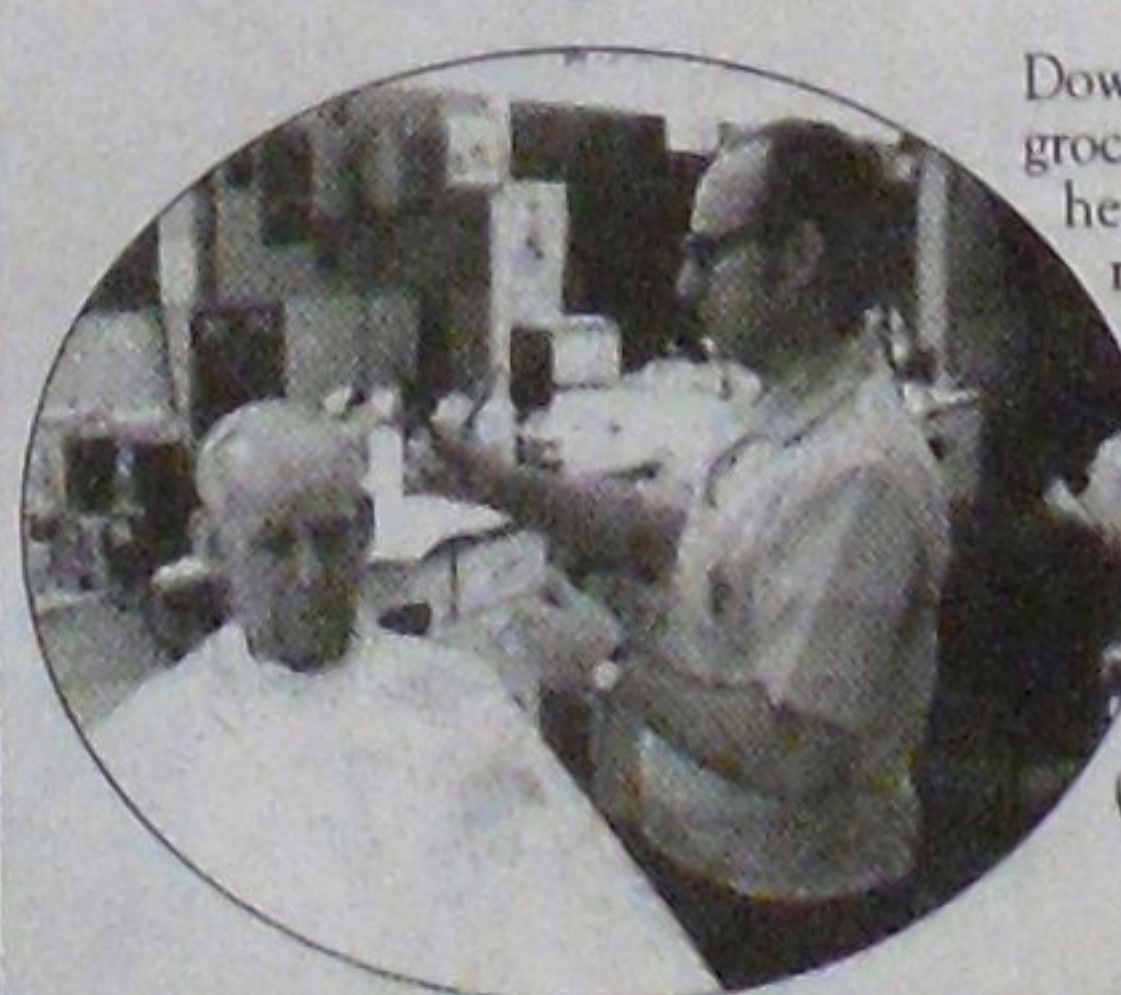


- 1962 - "The French Chef" with Julia Child comes to public television.
- 1963 - Weight Watchers is formed by Queens housewife Jean Nidetch with Albert Lippert.
- 1964 - Nachos are introduced at the Dallas State Fair.
- 1965 - Gatorade and Tang are introduced.

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Travelling back through time: 1960-1969



Downtown had everything you needed in the sixties, drug stores, grocery stores, clothing stores, even shoe stores. They were all right here downtown. The sixties in Joe's Barber Shop brought changes too. A new facade to modernize the building. A facelift inside to show pride in ownership. The business, now updated, was a busy, bustling barber shop with all 4 stations working. A beauty salon was opened in the other half of the building. Joe the barber, sold the business to his son Joe, but kept working for many years to come. A new name emerged, Barber Joe's. Here, Joe works on one of his favorite customers, his father. The original Joe the Barber.

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John F. Kennedy makes a whistle stop in Suisun City while campaigning for president. With him are California Gov. Pat Brown and Sen. Luther Gibson (right). Kennedy would win the presidency, but his life would be cut short by an assassin's bullet, as was the life of his younger brother Bobby and civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King.



Reporter file photo

'60s erupt in psychedelic fashion ...

(Continued from cover) blank range. Brought to us live, the killing of a killer. And as if that wasn't enough for the nation and for the Kennedys, Sirhan B. Sirhan brought a similar end to the life of the president's brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy. Sirhan brought it even closer to home; he did time at the California Medical Facility. He was bad enough, but on the outrageous scale Sirhan was one-upped by another CMF notoriety: Charles "Helter-Skelter" Manson, a name and a face that would return in the psychic nightmares of our society. The '60s: A bad decade for bad dudes.

Her husband's blood still a stain on her dress, first lady Jacqueline Kennedy witnessed the swearing-in of Lyndon Baines Johnson aboard Air Force One. He took over, vowing to put a swift end to communist aggression in Vietnam, and the Vacavilles of America were in it more than ever before.

Supportive Travis jets screamed toward 'Nam as voices screamed in our own City Hall. A revolution of thinking put three new faces on the City Council. A downtown redevelopment project was tubed, its appointed

commission was sacked and it reached a "recall" crescendo. Sides were drawn, support was galvanized; the municipal civil war even saw families splitting in their philosophies. The vote barely failed, the clean-sweep leadership remained in office and the period of upheaval finally came to an end. But the wounds would linger on in the thinking and mind-set of this town of 20,000 for years to come.

In another arena, just when we thought it was safe to come in out of the political storm, Richard Milhous Nixon showed up. At a gala Nut Tree breakfast, the future president of the United States stumped for the governorship of California. We would hear of him again, and history would remember him in ways that no one would have guessed.

But the sun also rises. Leisure Town, a new concept for a retirement city within a city, started to emerge in the northeast. Surrounding an unheard-of golf course, the Tony Syar development would utilize some 500 acres and provide housing for thousands of select-age residents. Leisure Town would create a new lifestyle on the Vacaville landscape, and its residents would come to shape

political and social thinking like no other single community development.

As new homes emerged, Vacaville's heritage home was marked for restoration. The historic Pena Adobe, the home of Juan Pena in Lagoon Valley, would be saved from the ravages of time and neglect. When completed, the \$30,000 project became a center of living Vacaville history, and the centerpiece of the Pena Adobe Park.

In life, President Kennedy vowed that America would go to the moon in this decade. Fantastically, but no more unreal than the events of the rest of the decade, Neil Armstrong made his "One small step for man ... one giant leap for mankind" in 1969. For a time at least, it raised our eyes up and away from all the sound and fury of '60s Earth, a sound and fury that signified everything.

At decade's end it seemed that the only way to sum up the '60s would be by staging a giant soap opera that, for better or worse, would get the world's attention. It would not be a celebration as much as an exclamation point on a decade like no other. It happened, you know. It was called Woodstock.

Vaca Rotarians heading to moon

When the first Pan American space ship makes its initial soft landing on the moon in the 1970s, don't be surprised if there is a welcoming committee on hand made up of members of the Vacaville Rotary Club.

Rotary's President Richard Rico, being somewhat air-minded and promotion-conscious, several weeks ago decided to surprise his membership — by reserving seats for all of them and their wives on a Pan Am Moon Flight.

This week he got a reply — by air mail — from New York informing him that "we can and do accept your request to be aboard." Needless to say, his membership was surprised. Reservations were made for 150.

Pan American, which is paying the way for flights to the moon in space clippers, has been accepting moon reservations for individuals for several

months. But it is believed the Vacaville Rotary Club request is one of the first group reservations to be made and honored. In the letter, however, Pan Am officials did recommend that each member submit in writing his name and address due to the fact that reservations are being made on an individual application basis.

The officials added: "Although we can't be very specific about the date of your flight (schedule, rate and routing information is still a bit vague at this point) we can and do accept your request to be aboard."

It is presumed the reservations will be good for sometime between 1975 and 1985.

So all that remains for the Vacaville Rotarians is to sign their name on the dotted line and pack a toothbrush and ... oh, yes ... ask their wives if they can go.

The Reporter
Feb. 6, 1969

Local joins Peace Corps

Vacaville's first Peace Corps volunteer departed Tuesday morning to become a part of the United States' good will program overseas.

He is William Ellison, 29, who until this week resided with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David E. Ellison, at 100 Lomita avenue.

"He had been thinking about joining since the Peace Corps first was formed," his mother told the Vacaville Reporter. "We're very proud of him."

Ellison is believed to be the second Peace Corps volunteer

from Solano County. (He) is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, where he majored in political science. Recently he has been a substitute teacher in Vacaville.

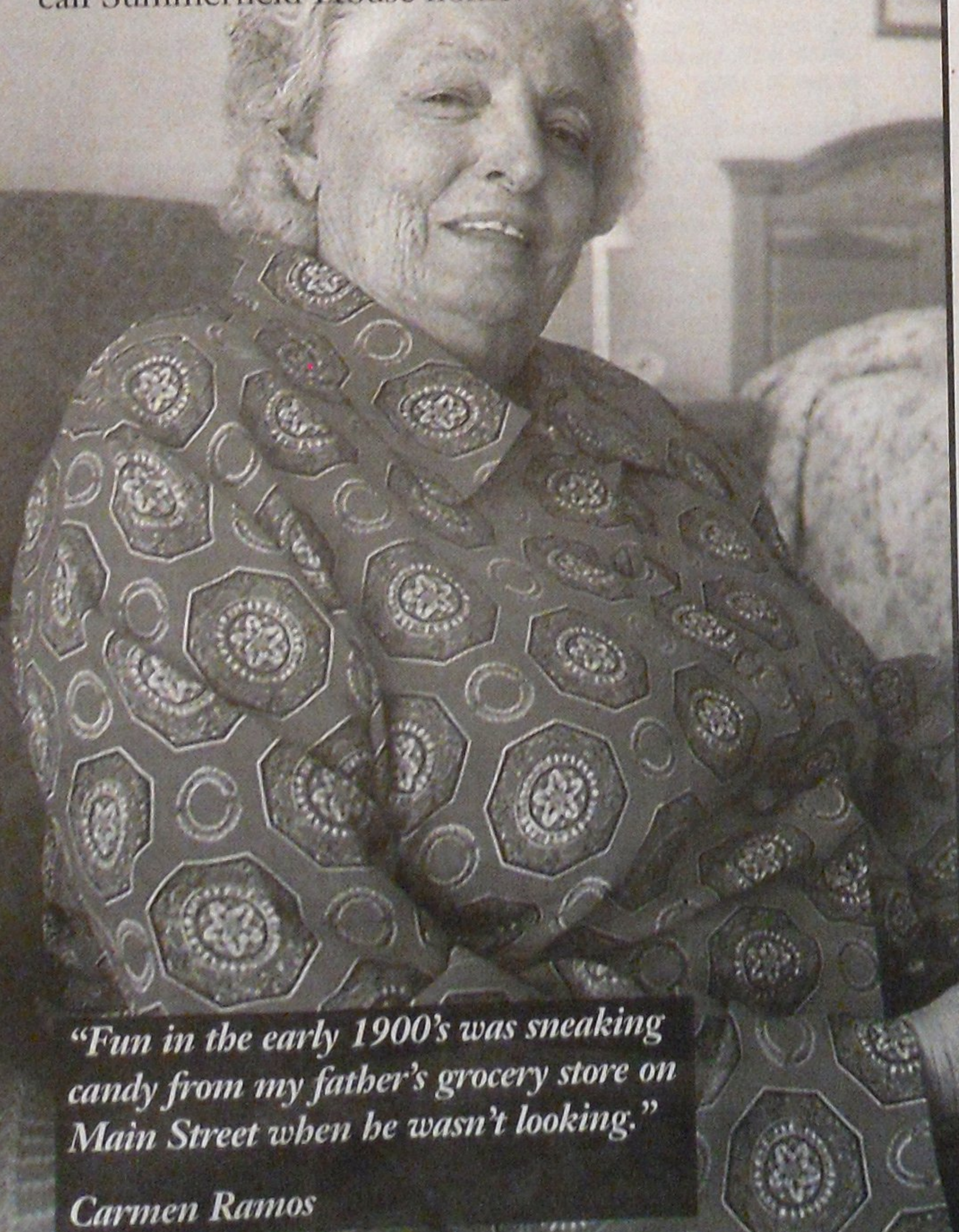
Ellison traveled by air to Baltimore, where he is expected to remain five days. Then he will undergo training in Puerto Rico for 90 days prior to a probable two-year assignment in Peru.

The volunteer will specialize in nutrition and in the feeding of school children in the South American country, his mother said.

The Reporter
April 19, 1962

Regent at Summerfield House

Some of the most respected names in Vacaville call Summerfield House home.



"Fun in the early 1900's was sneaking candy from my father's grocery store on Main Street when he wasn't looking."

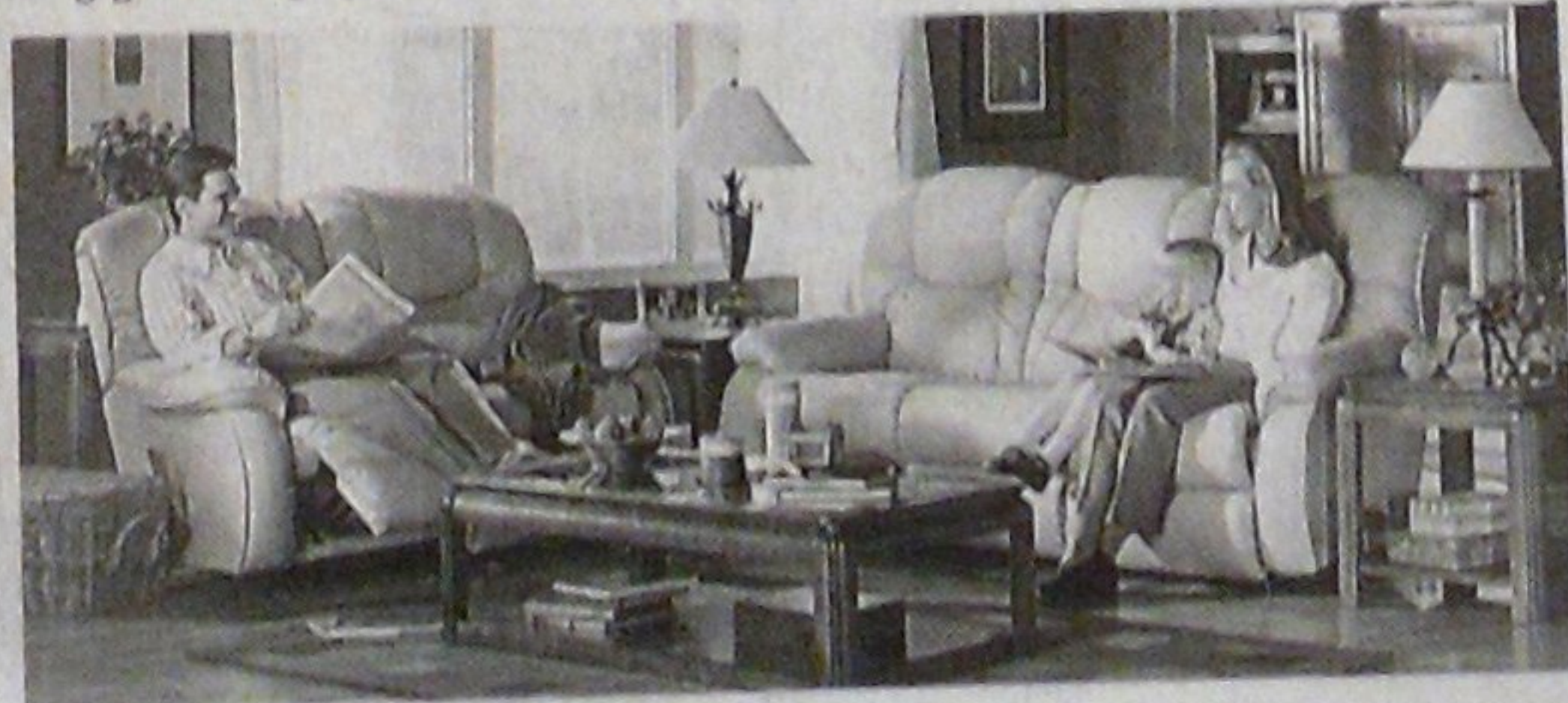
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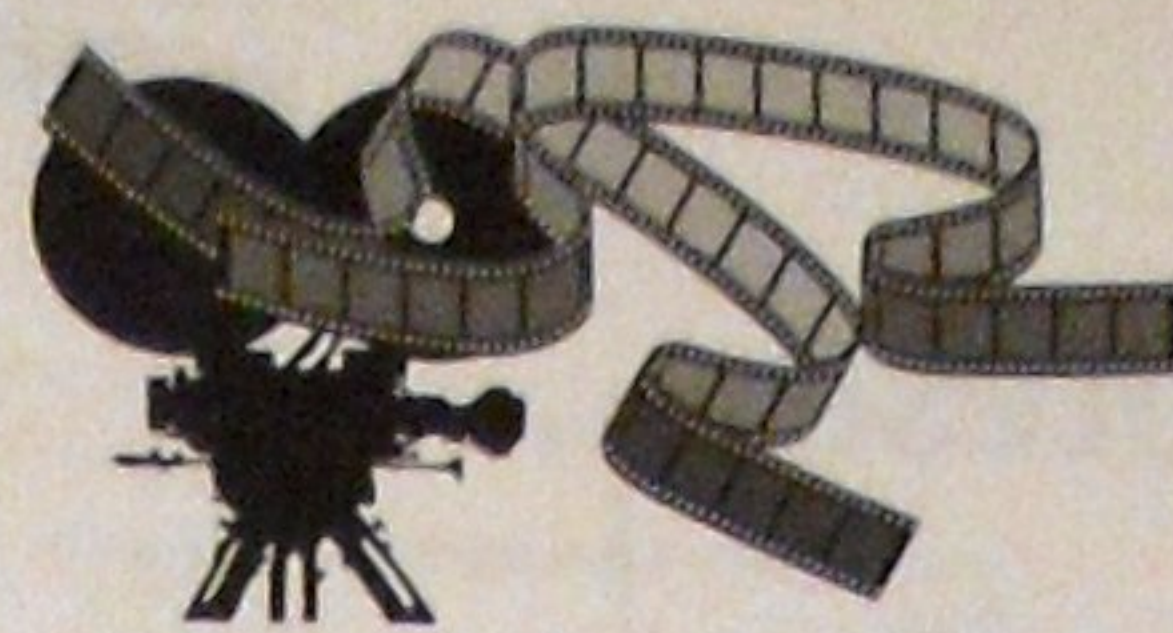
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A look back...
1960-1969

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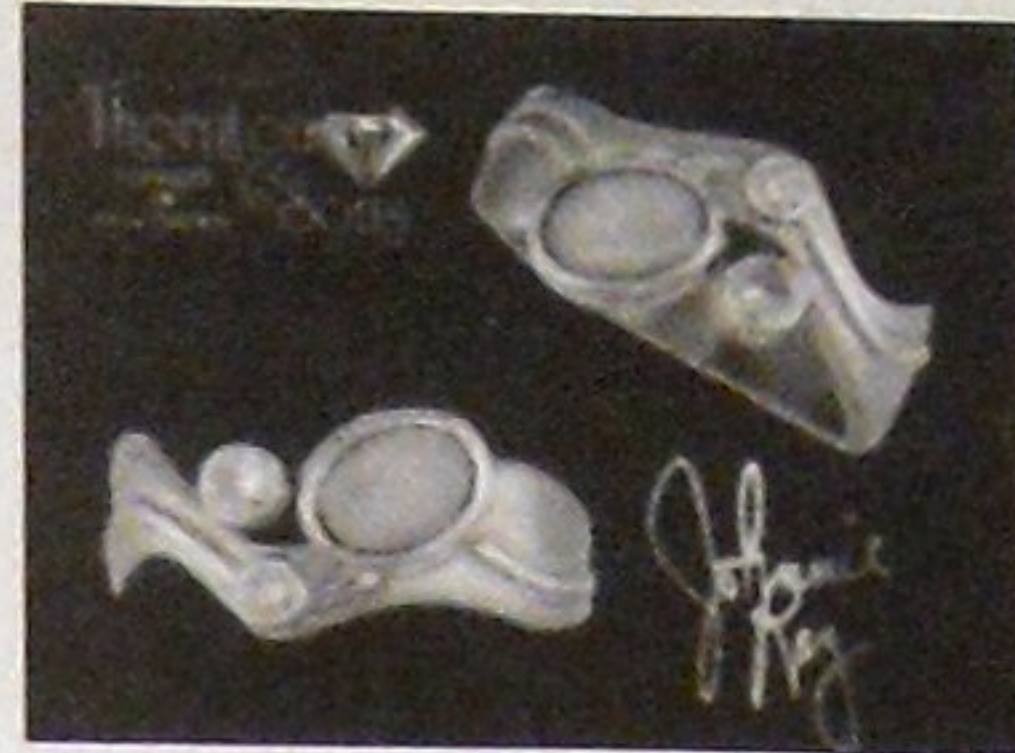


Then when the designing was done, it would be done in a nice full color rendering for the customer to preview. This gave the customer a

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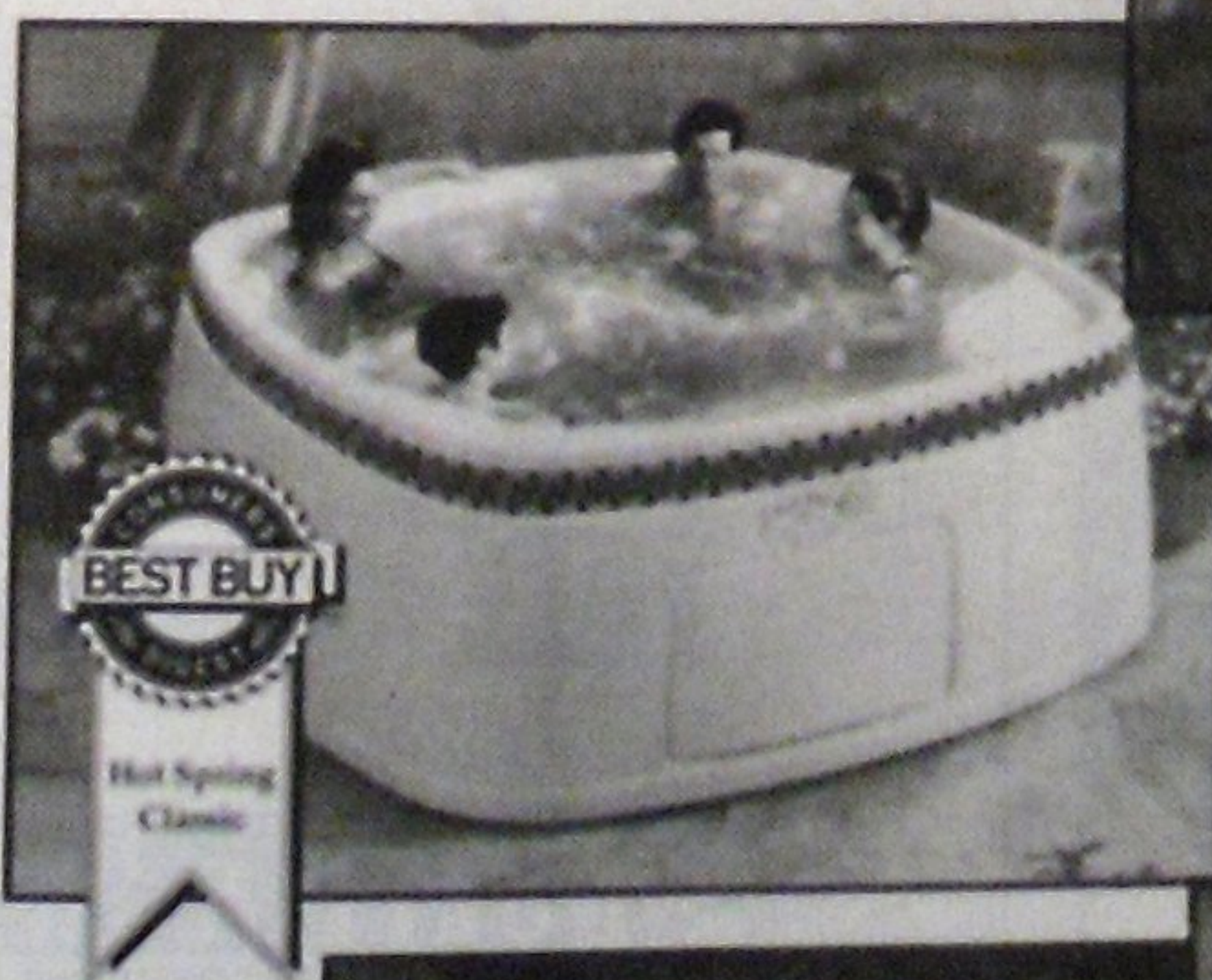
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Wealth and protests ...

(Continued from Page 3)

prove it, the baby boomers as they were coming of age would not shy away from the problems of society as they saw them or those whom they held responsible.

Generally tame if not boring public board meetings took on a new life in Solano County. The Reporter closely chronicled the activities sparked in early in 1968 at the local community college.

About 300 students from various schools in the region rallied outside the Solano Junior College cafeteria in April, advocating "getting out of Vietnam and freeing our own people first." Vietnam is just another example of whites trying to dominate the minority, one student said.

And it seemed that momentum continued to build.

"An unscheduled spokesman for the Black Student Union Monday night jolted the Solano Junior College Board of Trustees into uneasiness when he tore apart the 'white boy's curriculum' in a very unpolite manner.

"The angry young man, Mark Jefferson, came set to drive a tough bargain for additional black courses, teachers and counselors and was further provoked when the board approved six new courses — none black."

Vacaville's California Medical Facility brought the city even more attention in September when Huey Newton and Eldridge Cleaver, two prominent members of the Black Panthers, were brought to the CMF reception center after convictions for taking part in a gun battle with the Oakland police that left an officer dead.

The celebrity inmates were heroes of sorts for some local students, who sought and ultimately gained trustees' consent to the sale of the Black Student Union's newspaper "Black Panther" in the school book-

store. Profits were intended to go to the Huey (Newton) fund.

The Black Student Union, with peaceful but vocal demonstrations, continued to provoke anxiety among established community leaders.

One of the major threats to nation, according to The Reporter, was uprisings at college campuses "by a minority few students, and outside agitators." The news-

paper was frustrated that nobody at the schools would stand up to the insurgence which allegedly was hijacking publicly funded institutions.

The Reporter suggested a serious study be commissioned to truly understand any inequities in the curriculum. The study was seen as a potential end to the debate and the disruptive upheavals.

But the upheaval only grew. The U.S. Supreme Court seemingly fanned the flames when it ruled that high school students also had the right to demonstrate on their campuses.

The Reporter was flabbergasted.

"As if it isn't bad enough to find ourselves today in the position of finding it difficult to control disorders provoked by anarchists, kooks, beatniks, hippies and an assortment of other undesirable characters on college and university campuses, the Supreme Court has now ruled that high school students have the

right to conduct protests on their campuses. ...

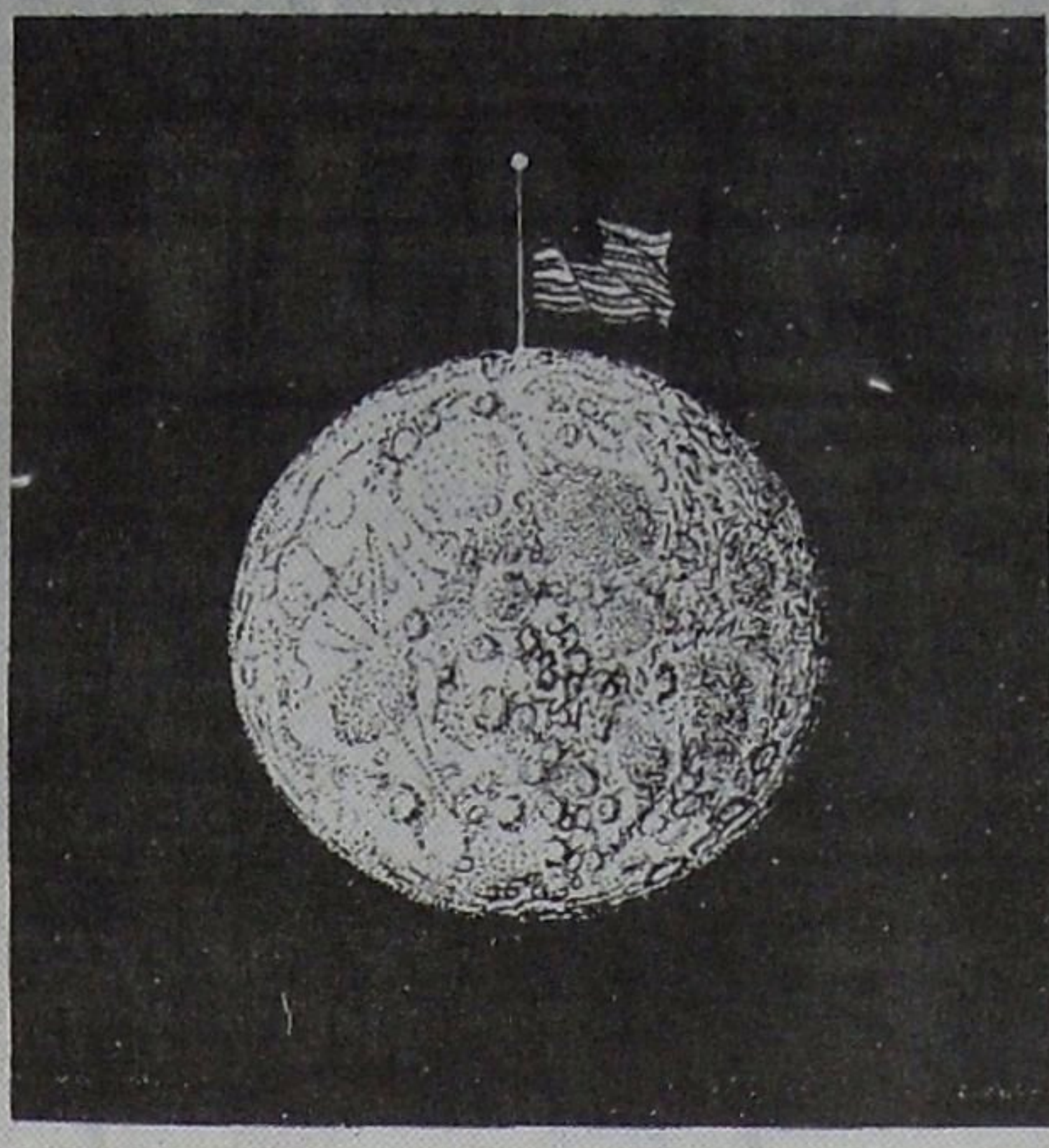
"By allowing expressions of controversial opinions 'in the cafeteria, or on the playground, or on the campus during the authorized hours,' the court has, nonetheless, invited conflict and turmoil onto high school campuses. The decision will, as Justice (Hugo) Black said, inspire some students to be 'ready, able and willing to defy teachers on practically all orders.'"

■ Staff writer Elizabeth Murtaugh contributed to this report.



Advertisers targeted young buyers in the 1960s. This June 8, 1964, ad encourages those who think young to drink Pepsi.

TRIBUTE TO THE MIND OF MAN



This July 21, 1969, editorial cartoon marked the realization of President John F. Kennedy's dream to have a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

'Things are different somehow' after man lands on the moon

By Sean Gillespie/Staff Writer

On July 20, 1969, men actually walked on the moon. American men.

The Final Frontier became the Final Conquest, and everyone everywhere was swept up in the excitement.

Vacaville merchants did not work. Vacaville students did not study. They all watched television.

A column written by The Reporter's current Publisher Richard Rico was the sole account in the newspaper the next day.

"It may be years before we awaken from this hypnotic spell to realize what has been done," he wrote. "But for now all I know is things are different somehow."

Three days later, an editorial illustrated the mood and expectations which the momentous event left to all Americans.

"It was a gigantic step — the first always is — but in relation to the Universe as we now see it, it was also a small one. It will have overwhelming ramifications in

Man's quest for knowledge of the Universe about him, and now that his appetite has been whetted, it will be only the beginning of new conquests in space."

Leading up to that point, there was a lot of pride shown for local participation in the space program primarily by the staff of Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield.

In 1962, Travis played a role in the first manned orbital space flight. The 84th Air Transport Squadron — in a WESTAF C-133 — airlifted to Cape Canaveral the Atlas ICBM missile supplying thrust to the Mercury capsule John Glenn would ride in.

Also that year a local business capitalized on the program's popularity.

Central Federal Savings and Loan Association of Vacaville was one of several members of the Savings and Loan Foundation, which sponsored the telecast of John Glenn's orbital flight.

Obie Ladd, vice president of the local branch, promised that Vacaville would receive mention during the CBS-TV broadcast.

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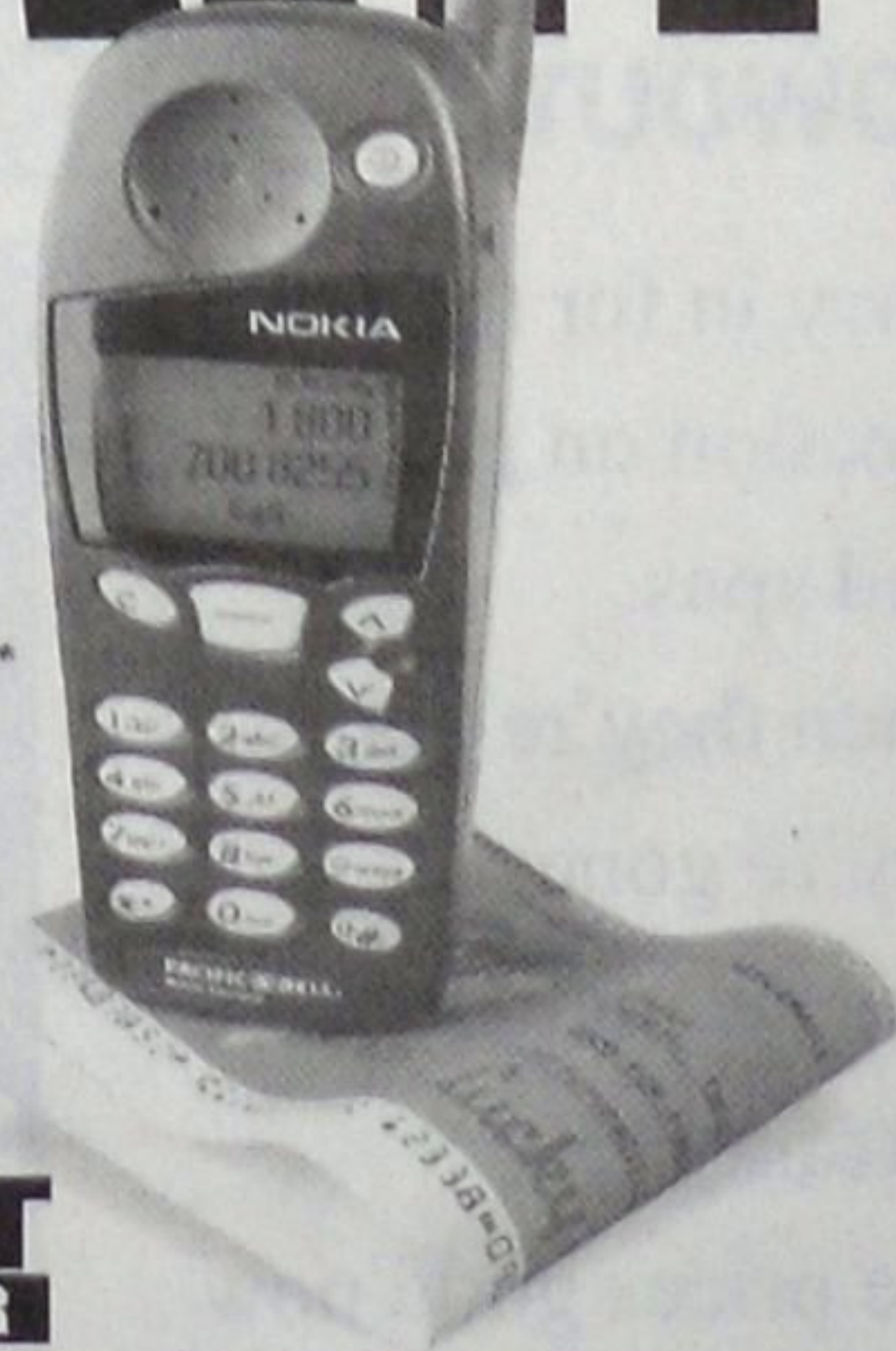
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1960-1969

THE PAST CENTURY

BOB HEISE SHINES ON THE DIAMOND

Baseball star reaches the majors

By Luis Martinez
Sports Writer

Bob Heise's athletic prowess drew the attention of many during the 1960s.

"He was just a great athlete," said retired Vacaville High School athletic director Tom Zunino, who coached Heise on the football and junior varsity baseball teams back then.

"Bob was a very intense ball player, but that was one of the things that was so great about him."

Though Heise played football, basketball and baseball in high school, on Nov. 9, 1965, Heise signed a professional contract with the New York Mets and a season later became the first Vacavite to reach Major League Baseball.

After appearing in four games during the Mets' 1969 World Championship season, he was traded to the San Francisco Giants, prompting the then-sports editor of The Reporter, Joe Singleton III, to name Heise the No. 2 sports story of the year.

"The Giants can certainly use some help at the shortstop position, and we certainly hope we have a seat when the public address announcer reads, 'Playing shortstop for the Giants — Bob Heise of Vacaville,'" wrote Singleton.

Heise eventually played in the 1975 World Series as a member of the Boston Red Sox and finished his career with .247 average in 499 major-league games.

The former major leaguer now lives near the Angel's Camp area and works for the California Department of Corrections, but for years he was known as a dependable utility infielder.

"I remember that he was a steady baseball person and a heck of a guy," said Darrell Johnson, a Suisun City resident and Heise's manager with the Red Sox in 1975 and '76. "He was a favorite of mine because he was a heck of a guy."



HAPPY FOURSOME is comprised of (left to right) Bob Heise, Mike Gunderson, Dave Sells and Jerry Reece as they congratulate each other after helping the Vacaville High School varsity baseball team post a 9-4 win over Napa Thursday afternoon. Heise tripped, Gunderson got a pair of doubles, Sells was the winning pitcher and Reece got a pinch hit homerun.

Johnson remembers what a great influence Heise was in the clubhouse.

"He had the greatest sense of humor of anyone I ever knew," Johnson added. "He could crack you up in a heartbeat. He was never at a loss for a quip or a joke."

Heise was a star athlete at Vacaville High who rose through the youth baseball ranks and then led the Bulldogs to the 1964 Golden Empire League Championship. The then-second baseman helped guide the Vacaville American Legion Post 165 team, which was coached by his father, William Heise, to the league championship that 1965 season.

Along the way he developed the reputation for a strong work ethic when it came to the playing field.

"He was just a very dedicated player. He would have played the game 24 hours a day, seven days a week if he could," said former teammate and current Vanden basketball coach Tom Newsom. "He was very disciplined. He slept the game, ate the game, thought the

game and always played hard."

Heise, former major league pitcher David Sells, Mike Brandt, Chad Boykin, Tom McConnell, Chip Cohn, Junior Lopez and Newsom played together all the way from their Little League days to their senior year in high school, said Newsom.

"We grew up together and went through (Willis) Jepson and Vacaville together," Newsom said. "We hung out together and went to the movies together."

Many members of that group eventually were drafted by major league baseball teams, though only Heise and Sells made it to the majors. Some, like Newsom, who accepted a football scholarship at Brigham Young University, decided instead to go to college.

"All these kids played ball together and learned to compete and enjoy themselves," said Zunino, who coached the group on the junior varsity baseball team back then.

Heise, Sells and current Kansas City Royals outfielder and Will C.

Wood graduate Jermaine Dye remain the only players from Vacaville to have reached the Major Leagues.

Dye has played four seasons in the major league and will be eligible for arbitration at the end of this season.

Sells pitched three and a half seasons with the California Angels and half a season with the Dodgers in the mid-1970s.

Heise's 11 seasons in professional baseball are the longest of any Vacavite to reach that level. He closed his career in 1977 with the Kansas City Royals.

Johnson believed the key to Heise's longevity was his versatility.

"He was a journeyman ball player who didn't excel at any one thing but was good at everything," his former coach said. "He knew how to play to win the game."

"And, above everything, he was a good person."

Second Sacker Reaches Majors

By JOE SINGLETON III
Sports Editor

When the New York Mets came to San Francisco next year to face the Giants in National League baseball action, Vacaville fans could very well

Reporter Exclusive

see one of their own residents covering second base for the Mets. Announcement came this



BOBBY HEISE ...
John N. Y. Mets

week that Bobby Heise of Vacaville has been acquired by the Mets from their Class A farm team in the Western Carolina League, the Greenville, S. C., squad.

Heise, formerly a Texan but spending most of his life here, thus becomes the first modern era youth from Vacaville to make it to major league baseball. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Heise Sr., 249 Madrone St.

TRADE POSSIBLE

It was learned by The Reporter that Heise's chances of playing second base regularly for the Mets may hinge on reported trade negotiations between the Mets and the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Mets are said to be seeking the services of L.A. outfielder Tommy Davis in exchange for Ron Hunt, the current New York second sacker.

Heise, 19 years old, took only one year in the minors to be recognized as an outstanding prospect for the Mets' parent club. Reports are he handled every infield position he was asked to play for Greenville with astute effectiveness.

A 1965 graduate of Vacaville High School where he starred in baseball and basketball, Heise is presently in six months of United States Marine Reserve training. He will be on the 40-man roster when the Mets report for spring drills.

LOCAL CAREER

The Vacaville youth began his baseball career here in 1957 in the Little League minors. He advanced quickly to the LL majors and continued on the Babe Ruth and American Legion play. In 1964, Heise sparked the Vacaville High School Bulldogs to a league championship and in 1965 led a sizzling .370 to lead Legion Post 165 to a crown.

Standing 6 feet even and weighing 175 pounds, Heise was originally signed for the Met chain by Ray Partee, scout from San Francisco, in November of last year. Partee said at that time he felt Heise had great potential.

Heise batted .233 during this year's season with Greenville and was named to the league's All-Star team. Hitting at better

In the above left photograph, Vacaville High star Bob Heise and teammates Mike Gunderson, Dave Sells and Jerry Reece (left to right) pose in an April 15, 1964, Reporter photograph taken after the team defeated Napa High School 9-4. Heise is shown in his Mets uniform (above). He signed with the Mets in 1965.

A casual remark leads to a remarkable deal

CMF inmates build fields for Vaca youth

By Ken Hart
Sports Writer

A penthouse was offered at a basement price. It was a deal the city of Vacaville could not pass up during the 1960s.

Youth baseball players and their parents in Vacaville were in the lap of luxury when they found out they would be able to play in a new ballpark.

And it was a simple passing comment that eventually resulted in the construction of Keating Park.

California Medical Facility business manager Robert Wenzel was turning on the sprinklers that watered a vast space of land at CMF while chatting with city administrator Robert Meyer. Meyer remarked that the city could use the land for parks for its youth baseball teams.

A park in south Vacaville was born soon after.

"The opportunity to acquire a \$100,000 ballpark for \$22,500 was snapped up Monday night by the Vacaville City Council," according to The Reporter in its Sept. 15, 1961, issue.

The original blueprints for the park included a facility of 3,000 seats plus 1,000 additional seats for special occasions such as football games or horse shows. The park also would sport lockers, bathrooms, a press box and a concession stand.

Bill La Bar was on hand for much of the construction. He was a CMF officer who supervised inmate crews while



Little League players and coaches line up for one of the early seasons at Keating Park, which was built in the 1960s.

Reporter file photo

they built and maintained the park. He said Keating Park had three fields for local Little League players and two for local Babe Ruth baseball players by 1966.

"Building was a long, ongoing process," said La Bar, now retired, in a recent interview.

The materials used to build the park were salvaged from buildings that had been torn down. Many of the minimum-security inmates did more than just build and maintain the park.

"The umpires for the Little League and Babe Ruth games were inmates," La Bar recalled. "We used to have 20 inmates a night out there umpiring."

Days when baseball was played turned into long days for La Bar and the inmates. After a day's worth of construction or maintenance, La Bar

would supervise the inmates while they umpired the games.

La Bar recalled that some parents of the players would argue with the umpires, though they knew that they were CMF inmates.

"Most of the parents were pretty good out there, but some probably didn't like inmates or thought their kids couldn't do any wrong," La Bar said.

The cost of building the park was estimated at \$22,500. Meyer said in The Reporter that "just lighting the fields" at Willis Jepson School ran up a bill of \$11,000.

CMF superintendent Dr. William Keating originally suggested a 40-year lease to the city at \$1 per year on the 10 acres of state-owned land. The city also would pay for water, lawn, lights and

building materials.

"This will be a good use of buffer land and (will) strengthen public relations," Keating told the City Council back then.

An additional \$2,500 was needed for the preliminary installations of water lines and turf. The council eventually approved paying the money.

Other disputes concerning the park have arisen since its inception, including dividing playing time between Vacaville's numerous sports teams and programs.

As the city of Vacaville grew, players from other leagues and sports needed a place to practice and play.

But the park has been able to provide fields for several other activities, such as adult softball, youth football and soccer.

Coffee Tree mural honors Vacaville

If a theme is necessary for a restaurant, then probably the one selected by the Coffee Tree, a branch of the Nut Tree, could not be more appropriate for this area.

Namely, the new "short order" restaurant across from its famous forebear has chosen to promote Vacaville and the surrounding area. This is done by a graphic collection which covers one wall of the new restaurant and is made up of art, photographs and illustrations on Vacaville and surrounding points of interest.

Aside from the all-new, colorful appointments in the restaurant, the mural is the focal point of the Coffee Tree, scheduled to open to the public Monday.

The Coffee Tree represents a new field of food preparation for owners of the Nut Tree. The equipment and facilities have been designed to produce, independently of the Nut Tree, breakfasts, lunches and dinners and "short orders" either to eat in the spacious interior or to "take out." A small sales area is also a feature of the restaurant.

The Coffee Tree will seat a capacity of 140 patrons, according to Nut Tree and Coffee Tree owners, and will be open from 6 a.m. to midnight, daily.

The Coffee Tree will employ 60 persons.

Owners report that although the restaurant is an offspring of the Nut Tree, the Coffee Tree is a "food factory" in itself and will operate "on its own independent of the Nut Tree." All labels and markings will state only "Coffee Tree," they said.

By Richard Rico, The Reporter
March 25, 1963

Meeting the Challenges of Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow



Walter P. Chrysler
b. 1875 - d. 1940

1960 - 1969

While America's youth focused on "revolution" during the 1960s, Chrysler maintained its focus on "innovation." With this in mind, Chrysler started the decade with a bold move in November of 1961. Designer Elwood Engel had been lured away from his post at Ford, and was charged to reshape Chrysler styling. His first creation, the 1963 Chrysler Turbine -- or "Englebird" -- was built in 1963 to test reaction to his design and the effectiveness of a gas turbine engine. Only 50 of the 1963 Chrysler Turbines were manufactured, and they featured headlight/tail-light bezels styled with a rotary-blade motif to emphasize the unconventional power source.

Chrysler also continued production of the popular 300 series automobiles through the decade. The term "muscle car" refers to the 300 and others like it, because they were unassuming sedans and coupes that included high-performance V8 engines. This did not mean, however, that the Chrysler engines were inefficient. To the contrary, a Chrysler 300 placed first in its class in the 1967 Mobil Economy Run. In addition, a Chrysler New Yorker took first in its class the following year during the 2,272-mile Mobil Economy Run from Los Angeles to Indianapolis.



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Dear Friends,

Who can ever forget the 1960's? It was a time of hope, promise and sadness. The rat pack was cavorting in Las Vegas, much to the glee of everyday working folks. JFK and his beautiful wife brought us a modern day camelot and Neil Armstrong landed on the moon.

The Vietnam War was touching us all, in one way or another. Tens of thousands of American men and women went off to faraway jungles to fight in a war in which many people felt was wrong. Opponents of the war took to the streets and to college campuses to state protests. One of those protests, at Kent State, ended in a particularly sad way.

Flower power, free love and coffee houses were popular themes for many.

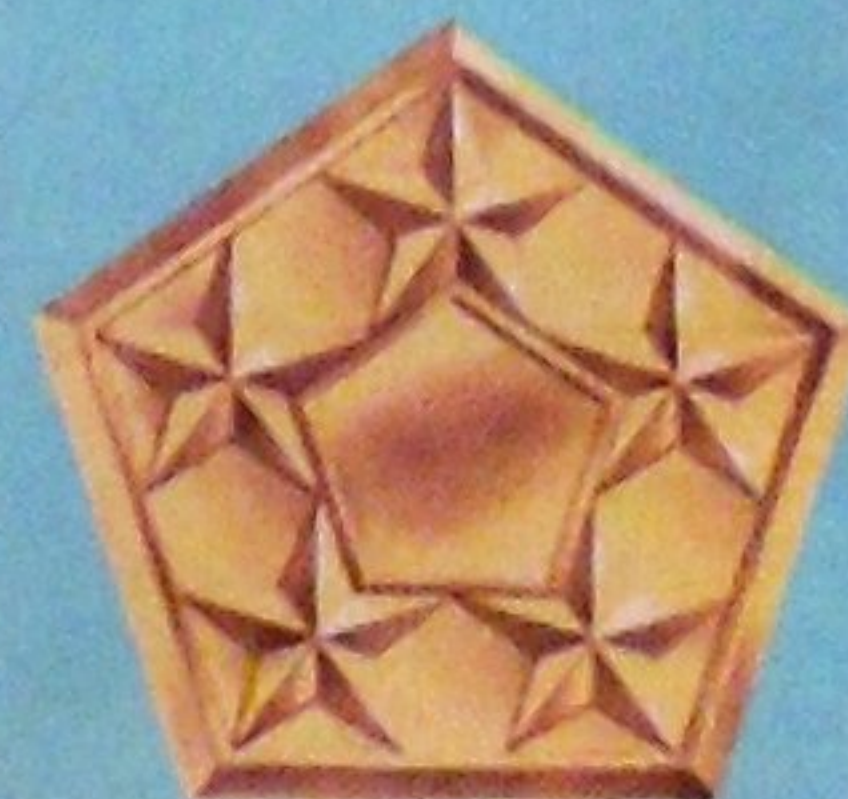
We were on the brink of war due to the Cuban missile crisis, but that ended when a young president showed extraordinary courage in standing up to a much older, and very unstable, Russian Leader.

Many of us came of age during this decade...unfortunately, we did it because of loss. John Kennedy was gunned down in Texas, Bobby lost his life in similar fashion at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles and the greatest civil rights leader of our time, Martin Luther King, a victim of an assassin's bullet.

It was an interesting decade for the automobile business. Who will ever forget the Edsel or the Chevrolet Corvair? Or the hopped-up Dodges with hemi-head engines?

It was a notable decade, for sure. It's fun to imagine what it will be like in the sixth decade of the next century. Will we even have cars then? I'd like to think so, being an automobile dealer, but I wouldn't take any bets on it...

Clarence Williams Jr.
President and General Manager



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REPORTER 1960-1969

THE PAST CENTURY



Architect Frederick L.R. Confer, Mayor Ted Chancellor and City Manager Walter Graham stand outside the new City Hall and civic center. The complex still houses many city offices and the City Council Chamber.

Dedication set for new civic center

An estimated 300 city officials and their wives are expected to converge on Vacaville Saturday to attend a League of California Cities, Redwood Empire Division quarterly meeting here, to be highlighted by dedication of the city's \$1 million civic center complex.

Dedication of the 26,000 square foot facility, located on Merchant Street between Walnut Avenue and Lovers Lane, will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday.

Guest speaker at the dedication will be Spencer Williams, California Department of Human Relations director.

The public is invited to attend ceremonies, and to tour the facility.

Occupancy of the new facility came in mid-December, but first use of the new city council chambers will

come Saturday when the League's Redwood Empire Division executive board will meet there at 4:30 p.m. Sixty four permanent, upholstered theatre type seats are being installed this week and will be ready for Saturday use.

The new facility is actually three separate buildings, though connected by a covered walkway.

The center building, about 16,000 square feet, houses the central administration operation, including the finance, public works, recreation, planning and engineering departments, and administrative facilities.

At the east end of the complex is a 6000 square foot Police Department facility, including a squad room large enough to accommodate 50 officers permitting showing of training films, lectures and gymnastics as required.

City council chambers are located

in a separate, amphitheatre type building at the west end of the complex. In addition to the 64 permanent seats there, temporary seating will permit an audience of 100 to be accommodated.

Construction of the new complex was financed with accumulated reserves. It did not require a bond issue, and the city tax rate dropped four cents last year.

To be constructed on the 10-acre civic center site is an 8000 square foot public library. Plans are now on the drawing board, and construction is expected to get under way this year.

Library construction will be financed with proceeds of a bond sale authorized by voters in early 1968.

The Reporter
Jan. 6, 1969

Nut Tree co-founder succumbs at age 76

Edwin Ignatius "Bunny" Power, founder of the famed Nut Tree died this morning in Sutter General Hospital in Sacramento following a lingering illness. He was 76 years of age.

Known to his many friends and acquaintances as "Bunny," Power set revolutionary trends in the restaurant and merchandising fields at the Nut Tree and developed a new type of American cuisine termed "western food."

Power, with his wife, Helen, began serving the public in 1921 under the shade of a giant black walnut tree from which the now famous institution got its name. In the next few years the Nut Tree became permanently established and sold dried fruit and nut packs as well as few restaurant items. Power pioneered the fancy fruit-nut pack business in California. By the mid 1930's the Nut Tree had become nationally known for its products and unique cuisine and was well on its way to becoming a landmark in the Western United States.

Born in San Jose in 1894, Power

attended Santa Clara College until 1913. He enlisted in the 91st Division in 1917 and following World War I he moved to Hamilton City and engaged in fruit farming. The following year he enrolled at the University of California at Davis, where he met his future bride, Helen Harbison.

He was a member of the American Legion, 91st Division Association, Commonwealth Club of California, Vacaville Rotary Club, Alcoholics Rehabilitation Commission, was a member of the Commission of the Californias and was a past president of the California State Restaurant Association.

Surviving are his wife, Helen, two sons, Edwin Jr. and Robert and one daughter, Mrs. Mary Helen Fairchild, all of Nut Tree Road and all partners in the Nut Tree. There are 17 grandchildren.

Also surviving are three brothers, Joseph of Vacaville, and Eugene and Richard of San Jose; two sisters, Mary Kayser and Bernice Power, both of San Jose.

The Reporter
July 7, 1969



Reporter file photo

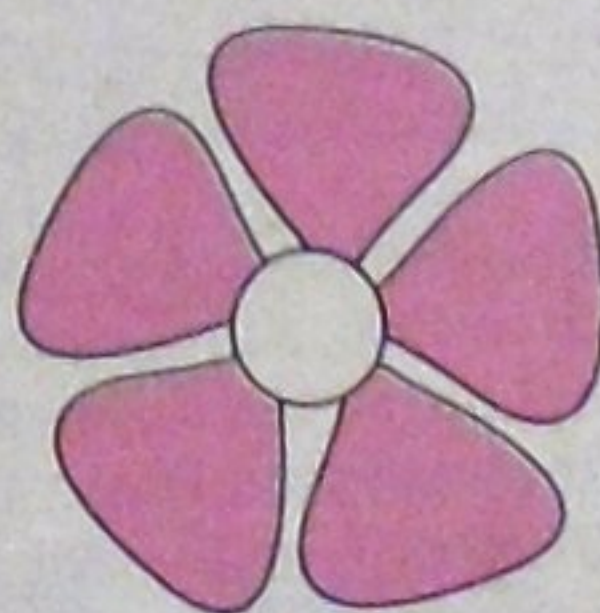
Ed Power Jr. (left) and Ed "Bunny" Power Sr. (center) greet U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren in winter of 1961 on Warren's visit to the Nut Tree. Bunny Power died in 1969, leaving behind a substantial legacy.

We're Groovin' at Ken's

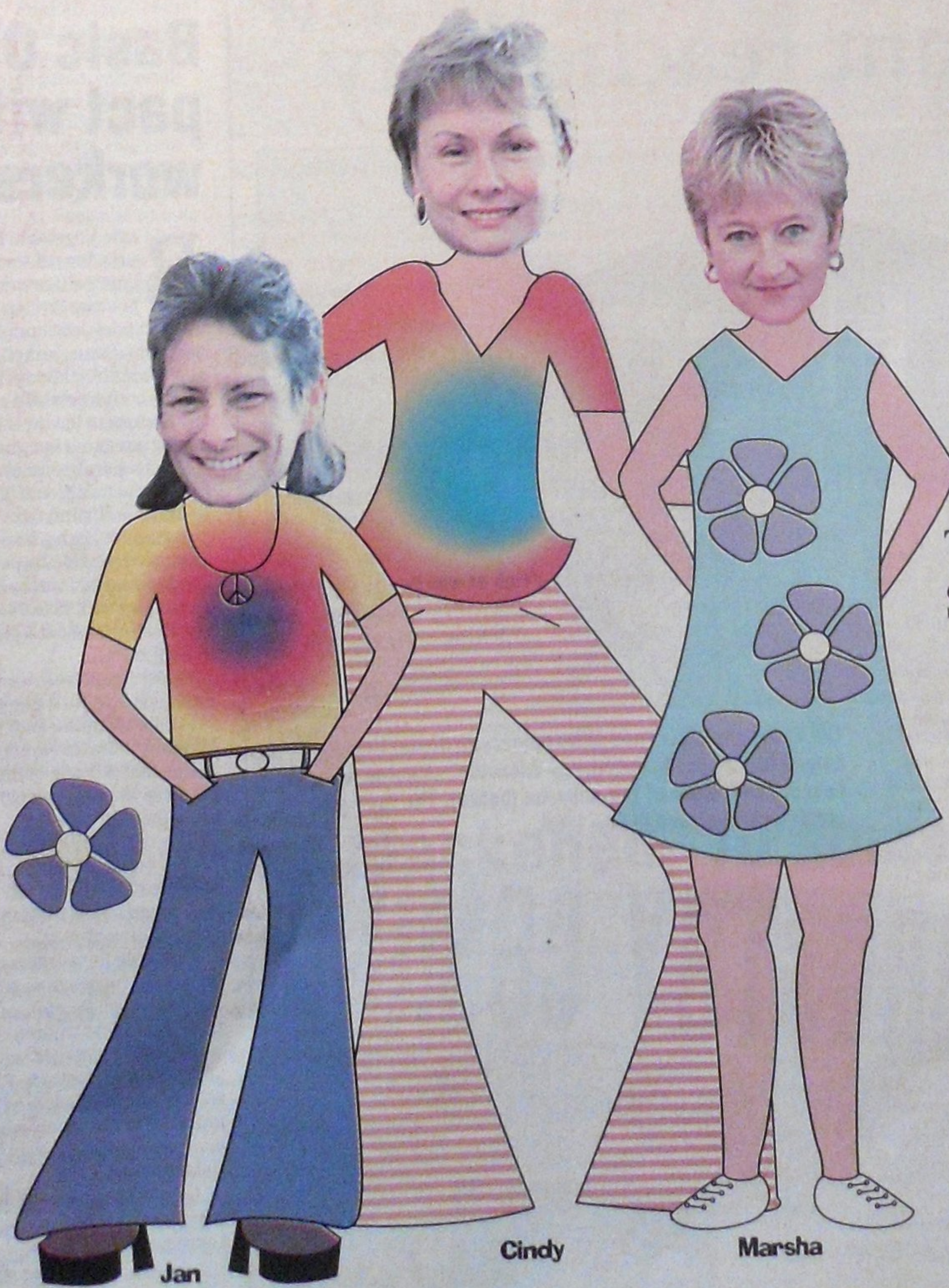
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Groovy fact:

The Brady Bunch show premiered on September 26, 1969 and ran for 5 seasons.



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GUSHING WATER HELPS CROPS GROW

Farmers reap gains from dam, canals

By Don Harness
Staff Writer

When Monticello Dam turned Putah Creek into the lake called Berryessa, an extensive water delivery system followed and so did giant strides in Solano County's agricultural production.

Today's fields of crops and orchards are reflections of the legacy left by area water pioneers who pushed for the dam at Devil's Gate west of Winters.

The dam was completed in 1957. But local crops received the big irrigated jump-start in the 1960s after the first water for farm and ranch use — some 5,000 acres in the Dixon area — was delivered via a canal system in 1959.

It was not until 1962 when even more miles of the canal system were completed that a valve was turned and the liquid gold flowed into Vaca Valley.

For most years since, crops have been growing bigger and better.

W. Morris Dally, a prominent Elmira farmer for 42 years and involved in the community until his death in 1996, became a Solano Irrigation District board president and was thrilled about the new irrigation of thousands of Solano acres.

"Before the advent of irrigation water, I could grow only winter crops such as wheat, barley, oats, hay ...," Dally said in a July 28, 1969, Reporter account. "Now, I can grow such things as milo and sugar beets, and I can grow all year-round, too."

Improved grazing conditions also helped fatten Dally's livestock.

"Before, during the summer, I was lucky to graze one sheep for every two or three acres," Dally said. "Now, I can graze seven sheep in one acre."

Dally was not alone. Records from the Solano Irrigation District and Solano County show agricultural income grew from

\$12.7 million in 1955 to \$50.4 million in 1966, then soared upward to \$133.9 million by 1986.

The assessed value of farmland during the same three-decade period went from \$23.2 million to \$351 million. Between 1958 and 1964, the valuation of all unimproved land in Solano County jumped nearly 60 percent.

Responding to the new water resource brought forth by the dam, Lake Berryessa and SID canals, farmers invested \$10 to \$15 million in private capital from 1959 to 1962 on land and equipment. New crops that went in paid handsome profits.

The county became one of the state's top producers of tomatoes, field corn, sheep and lambs, pears, sugar beets and alfalfa seeds.

Other bountiful crops included apricots, wheat, sunflower seeds, prunes, plums, peaches, apples, oranges, nectarines, cherries, strawberries, boysenberries, melons, walnuts and almonds.

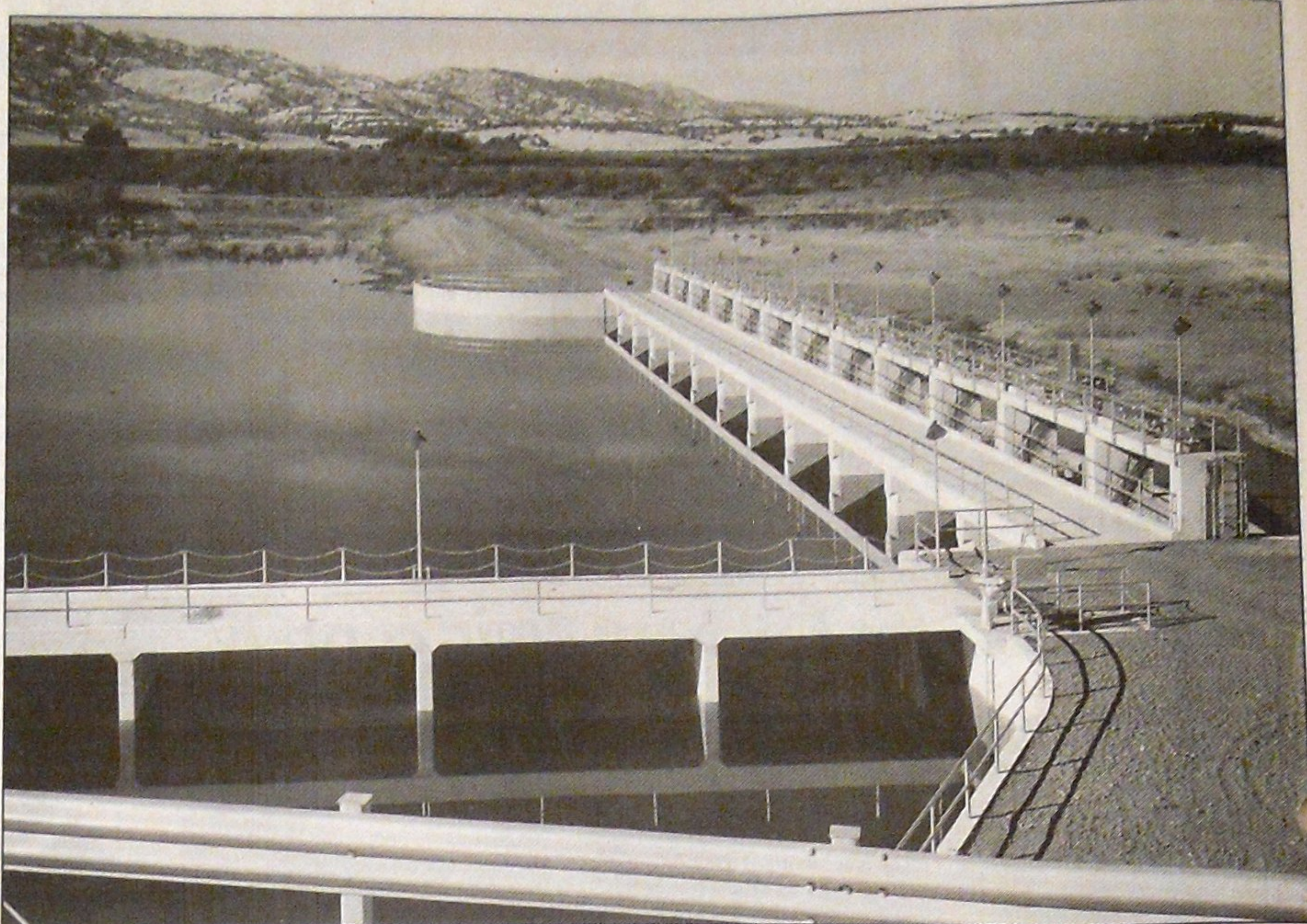
Water from Lake Berryessa doubled the tonnage of grapes grown by the Cadenasso Winery in Fairfield.

Alonzo Farms at Dixon averaged 275 crates of jumbo ears of corn to the acre.

Lewis Pierce began to harvest 7 to 10 tons per acre of kiwi fruit in Suisun Valley.

Plentiful water supplies helped give birth to Hines Wholesale Nursery in nearby Lagoon Valley, the world's largest container nursery and grower of popular landscaping plants. Hines would continue to grow and in the 1990s would expand to a second location, this one north of Vacaville and within sight of Interstate 505.

The assurance of a plentiful supply of water also began to attract a significant number of nonagricultural businesses and industry. Among them was the massive Fairfield Anheuser-Busch brewery.



American Home Foods moved from Oakland to Vacaville in 1966 and began using two million gallons of water per day.

The water stored in Lake Berryessa also helped offset drought years and provided a measure of flood control.

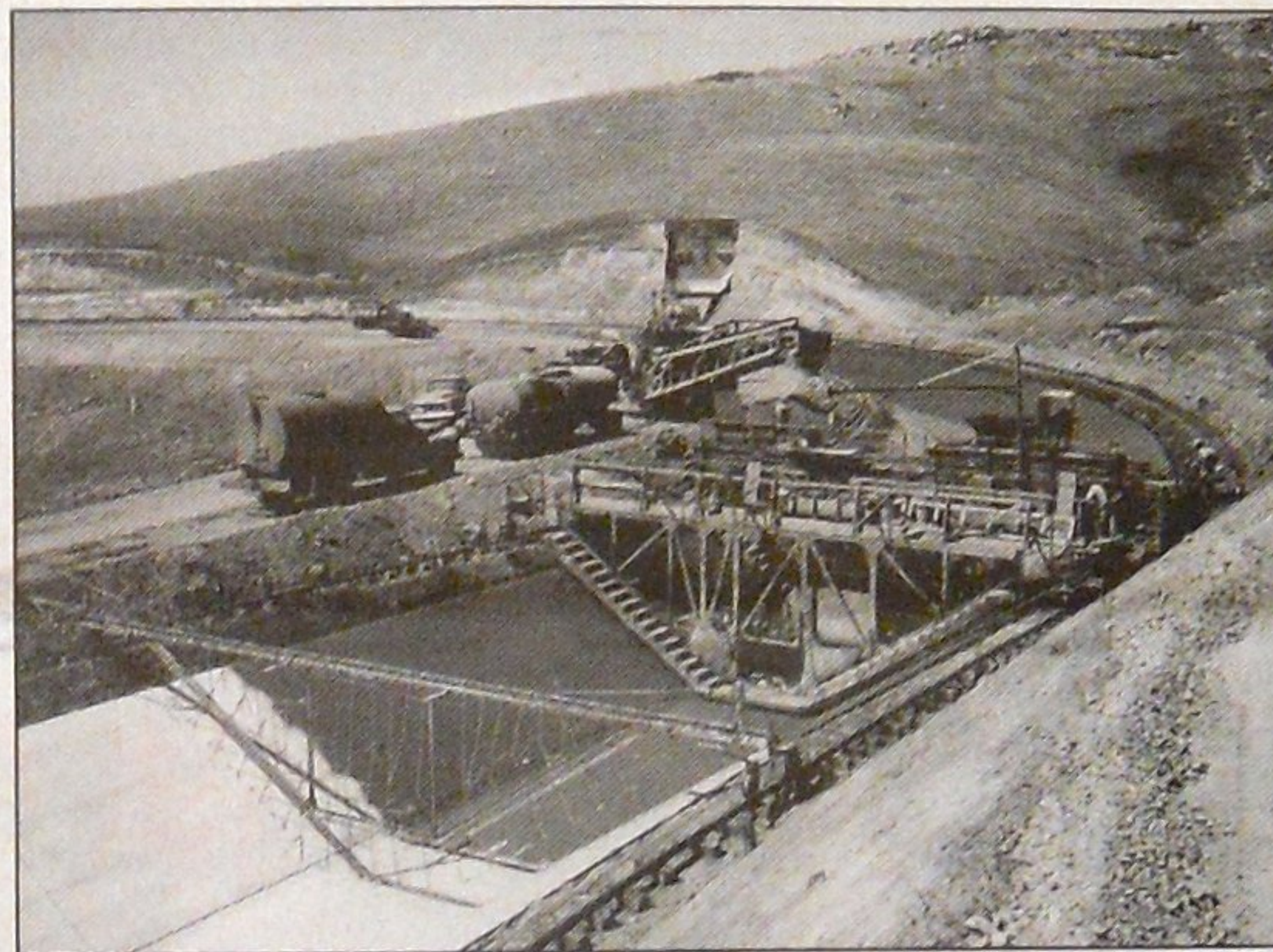
Water also attracted new residents.

One big population growth jump occurred from 1962 to 1963, when an influx of 8,000 people hiked the county population from 146,000 to 154,000.

The same year, the percentage of irrigated acres, according to The Reporter's accounts, "took a whopping jump from 28.3 percent to 40.7 percent."

With irrigation, people came to farm the land.

And, they still do.



The diversion dam (above) downstream from Monticello Dam and Lake Berryessa, which forms Lake Solano, diverts water into canals so water can flow to area crops. Construction of 33 miles of canals (left) needed to bring water to Vaca Valley was finished in 1962.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation photos

AHF processing plant reaches city

Industrial push comes along with arrival of new facility

By Sally Miller Wyatt
Special to the Reporter

Vacaville not only opened its doors to the Leisure Town retirement community in the 1960s, it also welcomed major industry when American Home Food announced it would build a brand-new manufacturing facility here in 1964.

"Industry Coming!" proclaimed a huge Oct. 5, 1964, headline in The Reporter, with a second headline of "Foods Concern to Erect Plant."

On this day, Vacans learned that negotiations to purchase 60 acres just two miles outside the city limits had recently concluded, and the company would relocate its Oakland operations here. The facility would represent the first major industrial development in the history of Solano County, The Reporter said, and the company would join others who had "grown up here — Basic Vegetable Products and the Nut Tree."

Within days of the announcement, planning officials held a special meeting to approve construction of access roads and water lines to aid in the construction of the project.

It was expected that 35 or more products, including those under the Chef Boyardee, Dennison's, Jiffy Pop and Franklin Nuts labels, would be manufactured in American Home Food's new facility.

Some operations were

expected to begin as early as 1965, with the plant in full production by 1966. About 350 people would be employed year-round, with as many as 600 during peak production times.

The site's close proximity to railroad tracks and the highway were cited as the main reasons for its selection.

An official ground-breaking ceremony was held on March 15, 1965, and speaking at the half-hour ceremony was Vacaville Chamber of Commerce committee member William Orr. Out-of-town guests included Edwin I. Power Sr.

During the manufacturing facility's construction, The Reporter regularly featured photographic updates, including full-page spreads of aerial views and up-close details of the facility's many features.

The plant was officially dedicated on April 7, 1966, and within months area editors were being treated to tours, during which they learned how food was prepared at the state-of-the-art facility.

Later that fall, a Reporter article noted that local teenagers had found picking tomatoes for the plant's production of tomato paste was a welcome source of new income.

Over the years, the plant continued to produce a wide variety of food products, and was even expanded in 1993 as a new line Ro-Tel tomato products was added. American Home Products sold the plant and four other



Reporter file photo

ers to a Texas-based investment firm in 1996, and the new owners changed the company name to International Home Foods in 1997. Shortly thereafter, workers authorized a strike, charging that the company was trying to cut benefits.

Plant workers went on strike on Aug. 6, 1997, but ratified a new contract on Aug. 12. On Sept. 24, 1998, the company announced it would close the plant in December 1998, citing economic factors.

The American Home Food plant (above) on Crocker Drive helped fuel a push in industry in Vacaville, as noted in the Oct. 5, 1964, issue of The Reporter (below). The food processing plant closed in late 1998.



Basic OKs pact with workers

Basic Vegetable Products, Inc., of Vacaville, granted its workers a 40-hour week ... to become the first food industry plant under the State Council of Cannery Unions to take such a step.

The action may add nearly 100 persons to the local payroll during seasons when the plant is in full operation in order to reduce the traditional 48-hour week, it was estimated.

Johnny Ellases, business agent for Local 857, reported that the contract was accepted by workers on a 98 to 74 vote last Monday night at a meeting in Eagles Hall.

"Basic employees now enjoy health and welfare, pension, vacation, sickleave and holiday benefits," Ellases reported, noting that it is one of the few plants in the food industry to grant these provisions.

The two-year contract, ratified by both labor and management, leaves wages open for a new round of negotiation, on April 15 of next year.

Pay scale for workers at Basic now ranges from \$2.02 to \$3.19 per hour for men, and \$1.85 to \$2.10 for women.

About 675 workers are affected by the new contract. Ellases estimated that Basic will be required to hire one-seventh more employees to provide for a 40-hour week.

Local 857, representing 15 plants, has headquarters in Sacramento.

The Reporter
May 15, 1961

BLACK THURSDAY

10c a Copy

Vacaville Reporter



Blaze Damages Church Center

Four fire trucks were called at 7 p.m. today to fight an apparently unrelated blaze at the Epiphany Educational Social Center at West and Main streets. Early estimates placed the damage at several hundred dollars. Information was unavailable as to the apparent cause of the fire.

Fire Races Into Downtown Vacaville

Hundreds of Firemen
Fight Area's Worst Blaze

FIRE SCORCHES SOLANO

Blaze races into downtown

By Brian Hamlin
Staff Writer

Fire has always played an integral part in the history of Solano County — downtowns in Vacaville and Suisun City were burned to the ground more than once in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Unexpected, fiery destruction was part of a world where most buildings were constructed of wood, water supplies were unreliable and fire-fighting equipment was primitive.

Nothing, however, had prepared Solano County for "Black Thursday," Sept. 16, 1965, when a wind-whipped blaze ripped across more than 8,000 acres of rural farmland from just south of Winters to the outskirts of downtown Vacaville.

Destroying homes, blackening pasture lands and threatening the historic Nut Tree complex as well as Vacaville's new Stith auto dealership, the blaze finally burned itself out in a cultivated field south of Interstate 80 near Elmira Road.

"Thursday, September 16, will be a day long remembered in Vacaville as Black Thursday," wrote the Reporter on an "extra" front page published the same day as the blaze. "The most disastrous rural fire in the history of the community in loss had its start a few miles south of Winters, and aided by winds of almost tornado proportions, fanned the fire south at such a rapid speed that fire equipment had a hard time keeping up with it."

Longtime Vacaville newspaperman John Rico said the fire was moving so quickly that the worst of the blaze was probably over in less than an hour.

"There was no question of



The remains of the Burton home are shown in this Sept. 16, 1965, photo taken after the fire.

putting the fire out," he recalled. "The fire was moving too fast. All they could do was keep it from spreading to the east and west."

On the day of the blaze, Rico said he drove out to the English Hills after hearing that there might be a fire in the area. Once there, he quickly realized that it was going to be a potentially devastating conflagration.

"It started way back in the English Hills and burned faster than people could run," he said. "It came over Hamburger Hill (East Monte Vista Avenue) and jumped both highways. There was no way people could put something like that out. After it crossed I-80, it just burned itself out in a field."

Despite the speed and intensity of the blaze, no serious injuries were reported.

The fire knocked out electrical power to much of the Vacaville region, destroyed 15 homes — including the old Burton Ranch and its outbuildings — and another 45 rural structures from English Hills to southeastern Vacaville.

As in decades past, the dedication of Solano County's largely unpaid, volunteer firefighters was a critical factor in containing the fire. Hundreds of firefighters from every department within the county were called in to assist Vacaville personnel and the California Division of Forestry in battling the fast-moving blaze, fanned by north winds gusting to more than 70 mph.

Dense smoke turned a bright September day into dusk and blanketed homes and businesses in downtown Vacaville with a grimy coating of soot and ash.

Solano County was officially declared a disaster area by the Solano County Board of Supervisors five days later, and the exact cause of the fire was a subject of debate — and lawsuits — for years after the blaze. Two theories were advanced during the trial of a fire-related civil suit in 1968.

One expert testified that he believed the fire was caused by sparking Pacific Gas & Electric Co. wires igniting dry bark of trees off the old Mathews Road in English Hills. Another investigator, however, said the blaze most likely was caused by hunters in the region.

The seven-man, five-woman jury apparently leaned toward the latter explanation and subsequently ruled that PG&E had not been responsible for the blaze.

95,000 acres blackened, 10 homes lost

Careless motorists and dove hunters created one of the worst fires disasters in Solano County history Saturday, when dreaded north winds turned the Up-County area into a raging inferno.

Flames roared across more than 95,000 acres, destroyed at least 10 homes and burned out many barns, sheds and other outbuildings.

Left homeless by the holocaust were two Allendale area families. They were families of Jacob Hemmet, a civilian deputy fire chief at Travis AFB, and S.R. Stevens, who had dog kennels at Route 2, Box 892.

Vacaville Fire Chief Warren Hughes said four other houses were destroyed in the Allendale fire, but were vacant or occupied

only by "weekenders" whose whereabouts are unknown.

Four other homes were destroyed in a 40,000-acre fire that started south of Elmira, swept past Travis AFB and reached beyond Birds Landing.

Up-County residents endured a nightmare throughout the day Saturday as north winds in gusts up to 60 miles per hour and tinder dry grasses created emergency conditions. More than 95 individual fires were reported, most of them believed caused by cigarettes dropped by motorists on Labor Day weekend trips or hunters out at the opening of dove season.

Many property owners fought desperately to save their homes from the advancing flames by dousing their buildings with the

aid of garden hoses.

Power poles burned in some areas and trees fell across power lines, leaving residents without water pumping facilities and defenseless against the holocaust.

One death was attributed to the Allendale fire. John L. Lowrimore, 54, suffered a heart attack as the blaze threatened his home and was raced to Vacaville by California Highway Patrol officers for treatment. He died shortly after he was hospitalized.

Fire Chiefs Hughes and Dennis pinpointed the origin of the Allendale fire as a creek bed north of the burned-out area and said a license number of a suspect — a dove hunter — was obtained.

Sept. 5, 1961
The Reporter

Police officers first to drive city ambulances

By Victor Balta
Staff Writer

Members of the community-minded Vacaville Rotary Club in late 1966 moved to spearhead an effort to have the city own its emergency ambulance service and to have the Police Department operate it. After numerous meetings and an almost desperate fund-raising campaign, the plan was approved, and the Vacaville Police Department began providing emergency ambulance service on Feb. 1, 1967.

At a City Council meeting on Oct. 25, 1966, there was no official action taken on the proposal to have the Police Department operate the emergency service, but the city went forward with its purchase of two regular patrol cars and two station wagons from Dick Lewis Ford.

The station wagons would be used as patrol cars for regular operation to be called upon in case of emergency as ambulances.

Marshall Schaefer, a Rotarian and ambulance committee member, told the City Council that at least \$3,000 would be pledged by local organizations to supply the wagons with the necessary emergency equipment.

The City Council decided to go forward with the plan on Nov. 22, 1966, and said the service would begin on Jan. 1, 1967.

From that point, several articles ran in the Vacaville Reporter, asking citizens to contribute whatever they could to the cause. In the Nov. 23, 1966, issue of the newspaper there was even a coupon printed for readers to fill out and return

with a check supporting the movement.

It was on Dec. 27, 1966, that the City Council decided the service would start on Feb. 1, 1967. At the same time, the council declared the cost for each use would be \$25 for trips to Intercommunity Hospital in Fairfield — now NorthBay Medical Center — or David Grant Medical Center on Travis Air Force Base. Beyond Fairfield, there would be a charge of \$1 per each additional mile.

The Reporter's series of articles produced a total of \$500 in contributions, ranging from \$1 to \$100.

At a City Council meeting on Jan. 24, 1967, just a week before the service was expected to begin, Schaefer presented the city with a check for \$3,508, more than enough to cover the cost of the emergency equipment. The additional funds were used to help the city cover the cost of having purchased station wagons instead of standard patrol cars.

The new service was to be used on an emergency-basis only and was not intended to replace Vacaville Ambulance, the existing private service. Anyone wishing to use an ambulance for anything but an emergency would have to make arrangements with Vacaville Ambulance or another private firm.

Also, if an accident were to happen on the highway but within the Vacaville city limits, the California Highway Patrol said it would call a private firm first, using the police ambulances only as a backup if more were needed.

Today, Vacaville has an ambulance at each of the city's four fire stations.

Flames on ridge believed controlled

A raging fire on the tinder dry Blue Ridge was believed under control today after it burned over 2,000 acres in about 40 hours.

"Definitely man-made," according to Vacaville Fire Chief Warren Hughes, the fire started too far back in the thick brush of Miller Canyon to have been of accidental origin, he said.

After more than 200 men were summoned to fight the flames for two days and two nights, the combination of back-fires, bulldozers and airplanes finally succeeded in halting the fire.

Airplanes which dropped borite on the fire line Tuesday afternoon and evening actually proved ineffective, Chief Hughes said, because the terrain is too rough.

The fire crews' main weapon proved to be bulldozers, four of which were used to scrap paths enabling jeeps and men to enter the area.

The Blue Ridge fire, which started Tuesday at about 1 p.m., was one of at least three in this area believed deliberately set by arsonists.

At 2 a.m. Tuesday a grass fire on the Peter Forrelo ranch in Allendale was caused by a homemade bomb tossed into the field, Allendale Fire Chief Buck Dennis reported.

Witnesses heard a loud explosion and saw flames shoot up 50 feet. Firemen found a bottle with a wick in it at the site after the fire was secured.

At 5:45 a.m. Wednesday a grass fire started out in a field owned by Herb West on Cantelow road. Chief Hughes doubts that the fire started accidentally.

After the worst fire disaster in years hit the Up-County area over the Labor Day weekend,

many Vacaville area residents anxiously watched the Blue Ridge fire into the late hours Tuesday night, fearing that sudden strong winds might drive the flame into populated sections.

Units from Vacaville, Rio Vista, the Suisun District, Elmira and Gordon Valley were deployed against the ridge fire. They were directed by C.E. Green, county fire coordinator, and Chief Hughes, in whose district the area lies.

About 100 local men had been called upon to battle the flames in the difficult terrain. Wednesday afternoon crews totaling nearly 150 men arrived from the State Division of Forestry.

Wednesday at 8 p.m., after the flames were believed mostly under control, one pocket "blew up" and forced renewed efforts to halt the threat.

By Thursday morning a line around the fire apparently was holding, Chief Hughes said. "The fire is under control, but definitely not secured," he reported.

He thanked the public for its assistance during the hectic period, noting that women brought sandwiches to fire crews and men arrived at the scene to volunteer their services. "We used them, too," Hughes acknowledged.

At no time has the ridge fire threatened homes in the Pleasants Valley area, Hughes said. Although flames at times moved close to buildings, men and equipment were always on the scene, ready to control the fire, he pointed out.

Among the properties involved in the fire were the Peterson, Martell, Caligiuri, Reihl, Wellman, Newkirk and MacLachlan ranches.

The Reporter
Sept. 8, 1961

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1960-1969

THE PAST CENTURY

REDEVELOPMENT THROWS CITY INTO SPIN

Urban renewal forces 'clean sweep,' recall

By Cynthia Roberts
Special to The Reporter

Vacaville's gentlemanly style of city politics was swept aside in 1962 when a trio of small business owners led a charge against downtown redevelopment and won a stunning City Council victory.

The April election of electrical contractor Noland Bagley, poultry shop owner Bueford Moore and auto parts store operator Berton Hassing also would be the start of Vacaville's most contentious period of city politics.

"After taking an early lead," read the account in an extra edition of The Reporter on April 11, 1962, "the trio swept to a clear-cut victory over incumbent Councilmen Richard Griffin, Michael Gonzalez and John Moriel."

There was no doubt in the minds of the victors that they had a voter mandate to stop the former council's plan for its redevelopment agency to buy up and tear down 38 buildings in the heart of Vacaville.

Judging by the votes, they were right. Moore received 1,410 votes, followed by Bagley with 1,344 and Hassing at 1,148 votes. The closest incumbent was Richard Griffin with 762 votes.

The election changed the balance of power. For several generations, the town's prominent business leaders considered it a civic duty to serve on the council as well as the local

school board.

But by the end of the 1950s, Vacaville was no longer a sleepy little ranching town. With a population that had tripled in a decade, Vacaville was becoming a place to invest, speculate and make money. So much had changed in 10 years. Many people had yet to fully absorb the galloping changes going on.

As a result, a deepening political rift started to show by the end of the 1950s. Small business owners such as Bagley, Moore and Hassing viewed the City Council and its ring of influential supporters that included the Nut Tree restaurant, The Reporter and many of the town's wealthier business people, with distrust and resentment.

"The City Council and those around them, the business people, were risk takers willing to invest in property and had the money to do it," said Mike Conner, now a Vacaville insurance agency owner who was the city's commercial office manager and elected city clerk in 1962.

"There was a perception that all the guys on the City Council were making money because they were in the know."

The three new councilmembers were well supported in this view as the results of the 1962 election show. It was about redevelopment as well as who was running the show in Vacaville.

The shift in power began with the 1960 city elections when insurance and real estate agency owner Leland Collins

EXTRA

Vacaville Reporter

EXTRA

INCUMBENTS LOSE MOORE, BAGLEY, HASSING WIN



Bueford Moore



Noland Bagley



Berton Hassing

An extra edition of The Reporter on April 11, 1962, reports on the victory of redevelopment foes.

unseated incumbent Arnold Clark, a successful local building contractor.

Although on the losing end of many 4-1 votes for the next two years, Collins had touched a nerve in the Vacaville electorate. He didn't like government, questioned the gentleman's council and was wary of socialistic motivations behind the proposed redevelopment project. He joined his newly elected colleagues in their efforts to turn out the old guard and stop redevelopment.

Championed as "the people's

choice," Bagley rolled into office with a full steam of public support and was quickly elected mayor by his council colleagues. An intelligent businessman with many new ideas for the city, Bagley also had a larger-than-life personality that could inspire loyalty as well as incite antagonism.

Collins and Bagley shared a rough and tumble style not seen before in Vacaville politics.

The new mayor wasted no time testing his new power. A 4-1 vote council vote sought to dismiss the members of the Rede-

velopment Agency as the first step in stopping the downtown renewal project. The action slowed but did not kill the plan. A few lawsuits kept the project on hold until it finally died in late 1963.

The mayor and his majority continued their "clean sweep" campaign through City Hall, replacing just about everyone in management except the commercial office manager, the fire chief and the city attorney.

Councilman Hassing defended their actions as appropriate (See Renewal, Page 18)

Renewal struggle splits city

By Cynthia Roberts
Special to The Reporter

In the spirit of progress, Vacaville political leaders embraced urban renewal to bring new life to an aging business district.

But in their enthusiasm for things modern and new business opportunities, they attempted to push along a plan for Vacaville's downtown that overlooked many of the small property owners in its path.

"If the project doesn't go through, you will see shopping centers on the east and south and the downtown will die," said Arnold Clark, former city councilman and recently appointed member of the redevelopment agency in 1961.

But another group in town, the Civic Affairs Study Group, circulated a pamphlet on urban renewal, calling it "a socialist scheme to confiscate private property."

"Redevelopment was a frightening set of words. It looked like government was able to take your property and sell it to someone else to make more money," recalled Walter Graham, Vacaville city manager from 1966 to 1984.

The ambitious plan set out by the agency encompassed an area that included Vacaville's oldest commercial buildings. Beginning on the south side of (See City splits, Page 18)

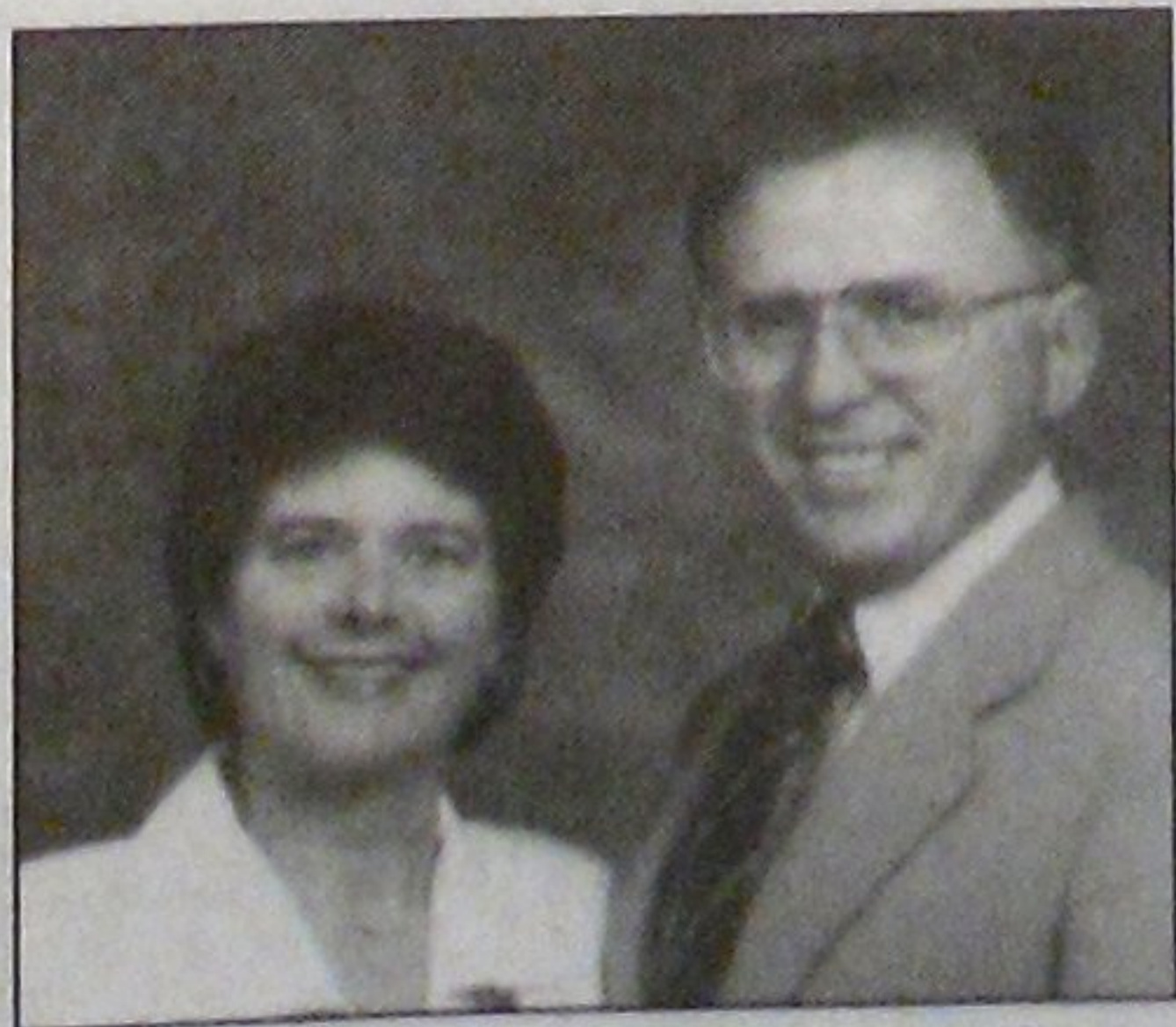


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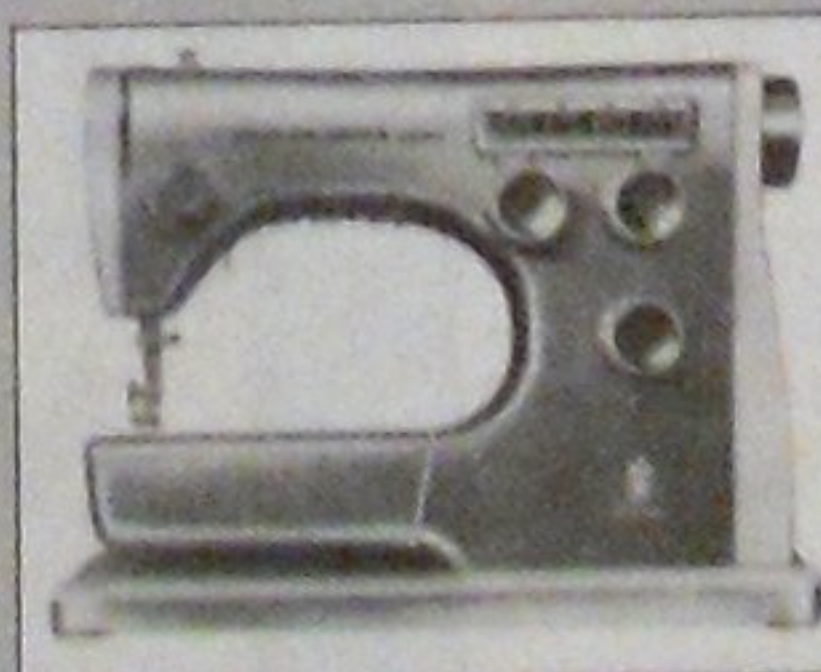
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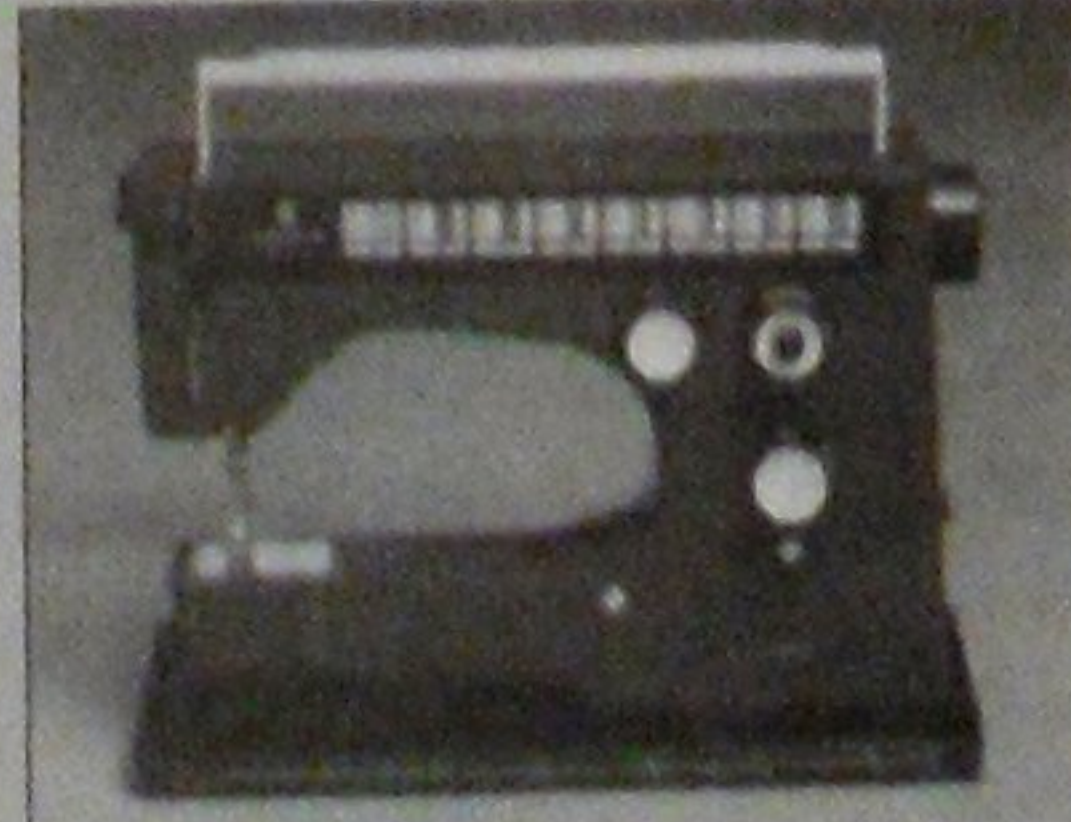
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Sewing in the 60's

In 1961 Husqvarna announced the biggest sewing machine innovation up to then—the Husqvarna 2000, an easy-to-use sewing machine with colour coded settings and automatic feed for elastic stitches. And elastic stitches were something the world quickly came to need: new stretchable fabrics required stretchable stitches.



Old 2000



New 2000

Stretch and knit fabrics were what the public wanted.

Several new models incorporating the same basic design features were introduced during the 1960's. The entire range of Husqvarna sewing machines, spearheaded by the 2000 model, appeared with new modern lines and a new colour scheme in 1966 and scored an immediate success. New practical features like the snap-on presser feet were also added.

In the 99th year of Husqvarna sewing machine history, Husqvarna again introduced a world innovation: the completely self-oiling household sewing machine. Fabrics and oil don't go together. So Husqvarna makes sewing machines that don't need oiling.

(CLEVELAND, OH) ...Viking Sewing Machines AB, the Swedish-based manufacturer of the Husqvarna Viking brand of sewing machines with its North American Headquarters located in Cleveland, OH, recently announced the sale of its 100,000th embroidery sewing machine, according to Svante Runquist, president of this global company.



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1960-1969

THE PAST CENTURY

Bowling alley set to open

The finishing touches are now going on at the Vaca Bowl, located at the corner of Mason Street and the Travis Road, with prospects of the opening of the 16 lane project on Saturday, Oct. 29, according to Manager Jim Owens.

The place is a beehive of activity as craftsmen are rushing to complete their phases of the huge recreation center. Owens has said that the finest equipment manufactured by the Brunswick Company is going into the building to give bowlers the latest innovations in this sport.

Throughout the huge building no expense has been spared in providing the finest, as in the all-tiled rest rooms, the elaborate fire sprinkling system, the asbestos ceilings, the furniture for the bar and restaurant, the cooling and heating system and the lighting of the interior.

The spacious dining area, which overlooks the 16 lanes, will have room for approximately 70 people, to be served at either a counter or tables. In another section of the building, adjacent to the dining area, is the elaborate bar, beautified with planter areas.

Owens said that he will place emphasis on cleanliness and will hire the personnel to keep the place as clean as possible. Over 20 people will be hired to operate the entire bowling alley project.

The Reporter
Oct. 14, 1960



Reporter file photo

Garland Dunham (left), Jo Ann Garcia (center) and Annie Casper visit the Vacaville Art League Gallery in 1969, nearly four years after it opened.

Art League opens gallery

A house located at 718 E. Monte Vista Ave., next to Andrews Park, is being converted into the Vacaville Art Gallery by members of the Vacaville Art League.

When completed, the gallery will not only display work of local artists, but will feature one-man shows of Northern California artists. The building will be a meeting place for the league and art classes. It will, in addition, house workrooms.

The league's biggest expense — \$1200 — was to have the house completely rewired and new light fixtures inside and outside installed. Money came from the Art League's rummage sale (which needed \$650), and through donations received from the Soroptimist Club (\$100); Frank McKevitt III, member who donated \$25; Toastmistress Club; Pi Xi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, Self Improvement Society, and Blanche Engle, member.

Material recently donated includes a sign by the Nut Tree restaurant; carpet for the East Gallery by California Sample Furniture Co.; carpet for the West Gallery by Lloyd Chandler Furniture Co.; light fixtures and labor by Art Dietz Electric; cleaning and miscellaneous supplies by Vacaville Grocery; flooring for the entry hall by Amphlett's, and lumber to replace a porch by Diamond National.

The outside of the building is painted an autumn wheat trimmed with white. Two main galleries, a children's gallery and a workroom have been painted, and left to paint are the kitchen area and workshop, two bathrooms, and the back porch, which also needs to be repaired.

The opening date will also depend on street construction of Monte Vista Avenue.

The Reporter
Oct. 28, 1965

Eldredge retires from 'her' library

Mrs. Esther Eldredge, who has become more a part of the Vacaville Library than the thousands of books that line its shelves, is about to turn a page on a service she has rendered to the community for more than 20 years.

Friday, July 1, Librarian Esther Eldredge will retire.

Since 1945, Librarian Esther Eldredge, known for her ready wit, her boundless energy and constant willingness to put a finger on any book in "her" library, has sat at the top of the small stairway leading to the hall of books. She has seen many of the youngsters she has helped, mature, go on to college, and gain professions.

She has "shhhh"ed as many youngsters who break the silence of the library as she has delighted others with her experiences in life, which she seems to delight in telling.

And when not cataloguing new volumes, she has scoured the community for fresh flowers, which she has used to grace the two large windows of the library. Not too much "scouring" was necessary, however, as many persons were eager to give Mrs. Eldredge fresh flowers for her displays.

Coincidentally, the library building in which Mrs. Eldredge has served for many years, was constructed by her father, the late George H. Sharpe. In a weekly column Mrs. Eldredge once wrote for the Vacaville Reporter — part community news and part library news — she said of her father: "Newcomers may think that I boast, but oldtimers will know that I state only facts when I say that all of his buildings were constructed to withstand time.

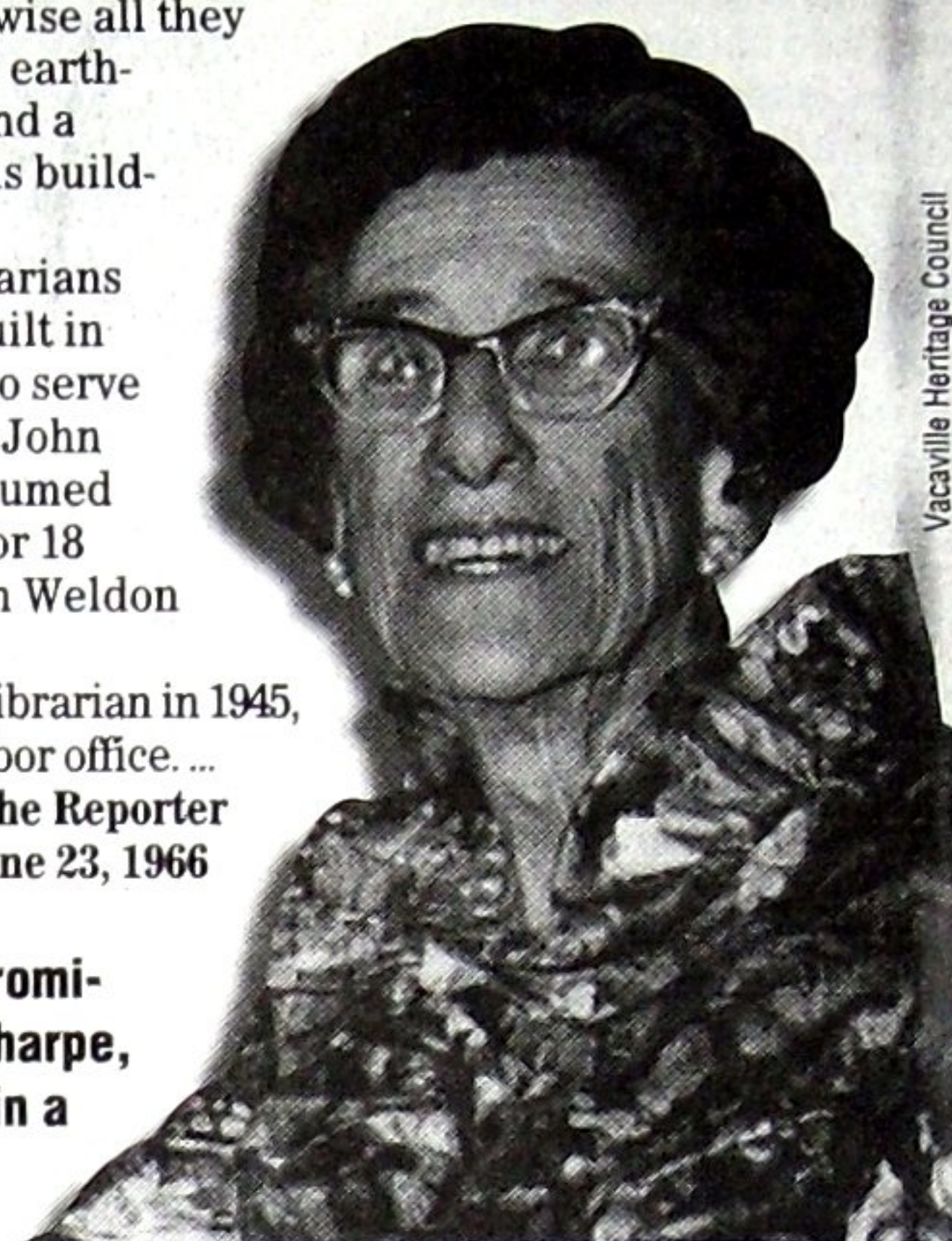
They may go out of style but otherwise all they will need is new paint. They make earthquakes and hurricanes humble, and a cyclone would go around one of his buildings to save its pride."

There have been only four librarians since the Carnegie Library was built in 1915. The first was Nan Reese, who served for 12 years, until her marriage to John Morris. Mrs. Pearl Moore then assumed the duties and held the position for 18 years. She retired and Mrs. Lillian Weldon took over.

Mrs. Eldredge then became the librarian in 1945, after working in a Vacaville farm labor office.

By Richard Rico, The Reporter
June 23, 1966

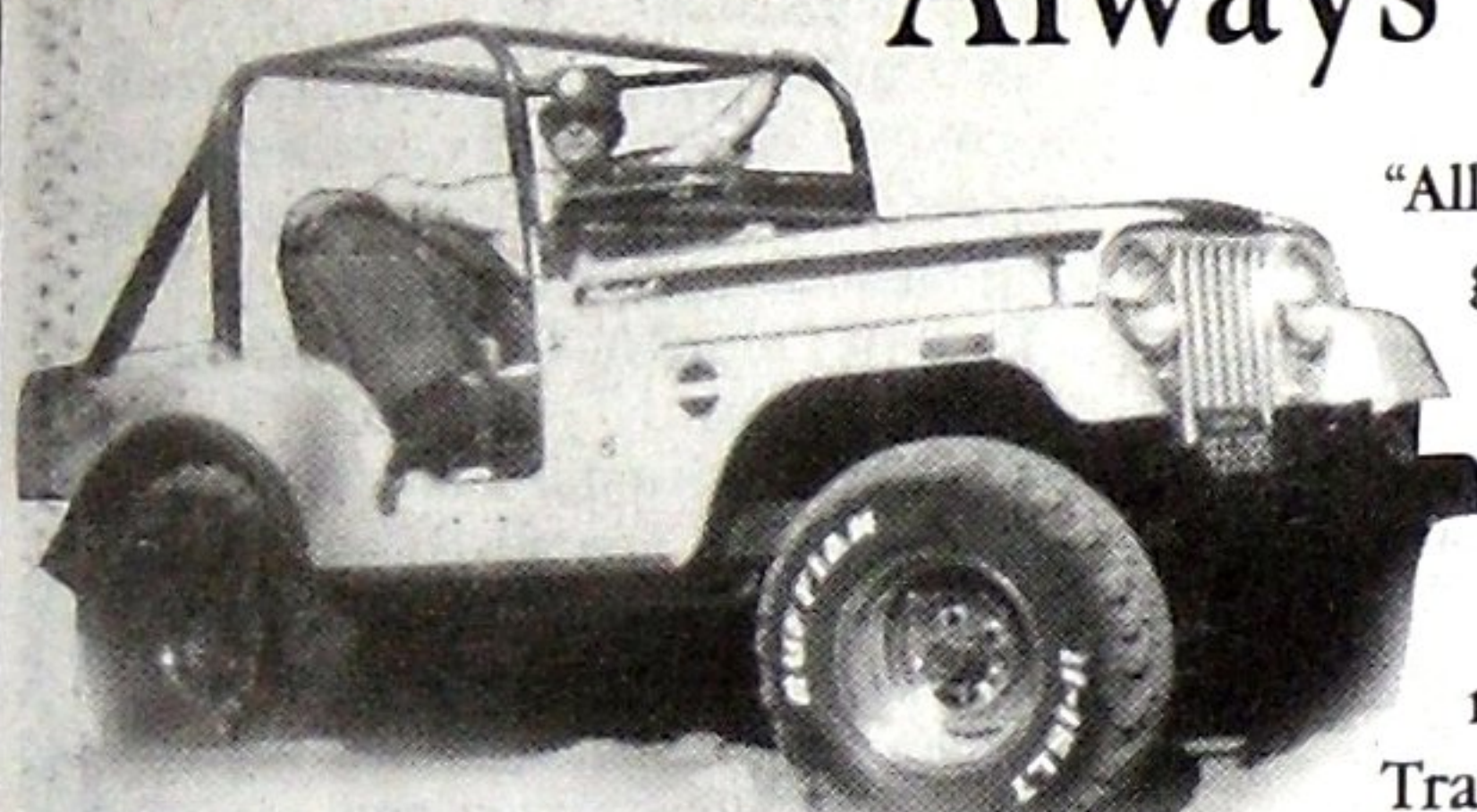
Esther Eldredge, daughter of prominent local contractor George Sharpe, was city librarian for 21 years in a building her father built.



Vacaville Heritage Council

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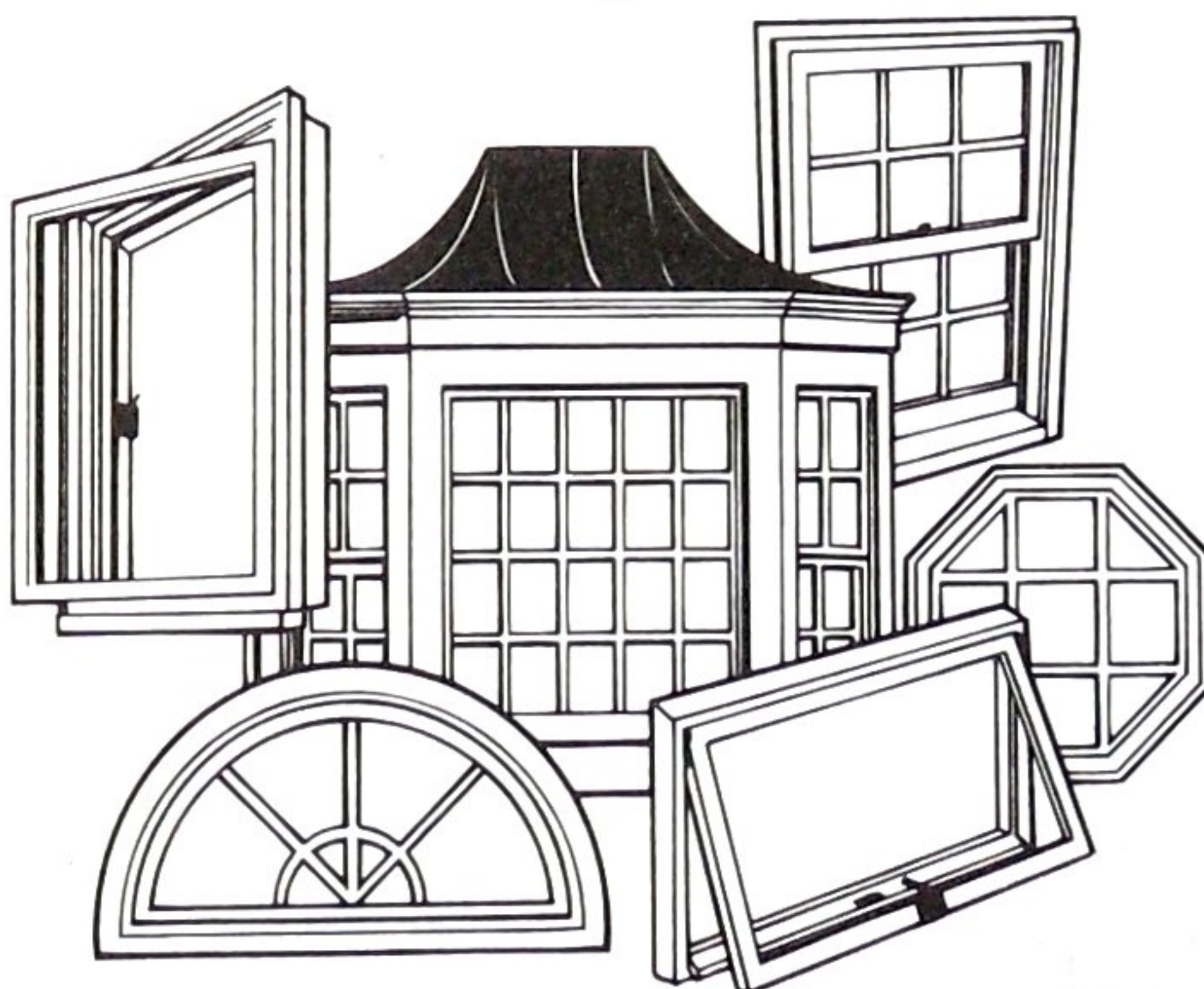
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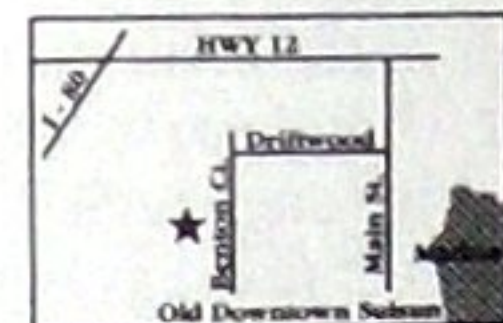
"All work and no play, doesn't make a good day", according to Monty Wilson who loves to go four wheeling! Monty and his family enjoy weekend outings in their 1970 CJ5 Jeep. One of their off road excursions was the Rubican Trail between Placerville and South Lake Tahoe; a trail enjoyed by many off road enthusiasts. Monty was also essential in helping organize the Delta 4X4 Club.

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CMF approach: Prison not end, but beginning

New strides are being made at the California Medical Facility in experimental ways of treatment of the state's felons.

Among them is the recently announced NASA research program — only one of over 50 research programs that have been conducted at the Medical Facility — and the widely-recognized art program that, according to CMF spokesmen, has evolved for many inmates "completely new outlooks toward life."

Under the stewardship of Dr. William Keating Jr., this institution, the psychiatric center serving the 11 units of the Department of Corrections, has received national recognition for its leadership in the development of new approaches to old problems in the treatment of men with emotional problems.

Dr. Keating feels that "prison need not always be an end, but can sometimes be a beginning."

This week at the facility, men are engaged in all sorts of creative activity that keeps their minds and hands occupied. They are preparing for the facility's Fall Fine Arts Show, which opens to the public Thanksgiving Day and continues through Dec. 8.

Not only the artists are at work — many departments of

the prison hospital are involved in the preparations for the forthcoming show. Not the least of these is the central arts department, under the direction of Lt. J.E. Norton.

Under the continuous supervision of Lt. Norton, the central arts program has been in effect since 1960. It boasts a staff of inmate commercial and fine artists. Some of them achieved professional stature before coming to prison, while others have been trained at the facility.

The work of the department affects many state functions. This unusual workshop operation designs and produces displays, fine and commercial art of various types, brochures, murals, signs, show cards — in fact, anything that might be found in an "outside" commercial studio.

Its services affect not only the activities of the Medical Facility, they extend to other tax-supported institutions, such as the local school board.

Charts, graphs and other illustrative materials are designed and produced for the Department of Corrections, as well as for other departments of California's state government. No commercial work is done that competes with outside civilian enterprise.

The Reporter
Nov. 14, 1963

Newspaper fights death row at CMF

Legislation is currently under consideration in Sacramento which proposes to allow the Department of Corrections to house prisoners awaiting execution at California Medical Facility in Vacaville.

The Vacaville Reporter today sent telegrams to our area legislators, State Sen. John F. McCarthy and Assemblyman John Dunlap, strongly opposing the legislation. The telegram reads:

"The Vacaville Reporter vigorously opposes the establishment of 'death row' at the California Medical Facility at Vacaville. Such action would be breaking faith with the residents of the community. We ask your wholehearted support in opposing such legislation."

Legislation has been proposed to allow Sirhan B. Sirhan, convicted killer of Sen. Robert Kennedy and sentenced to death in the California gas chamber, be held here awaiting execution. Present law requires persons sentenced to death in the gas chamber be held on death row at San Quentin Prison, nowhere else, except for

psychiatric reasons.

Hearings were held in Vacaville prior to establishment of a prison here. The proposal presented to this community was to establish a rehabilitation and segregation facility here. It was not to establish a death row.

Moderate opposition was raised during those hearings. Strong opposition would have been raised at that time, as now, by the vast majority of our citizens had the proposal been to establish a death row here.

To pass legislation at this point that would result in a death row being established at California Medical Facility would thus be breaking the faith with the residents of our community.

If security at San Quentin Prison's death row is inadequate to protect Sirhan B. Sirhan, or anyone else sentenced to die in the state's gas chamber, after the number of years it has been there, we would not want to expose our community to the threat of a new experiment here.

Editorial, The Reporter
April 24, 1969

Zodiac killer's threats force police action

Vacaville police chief James Lehman conferred with District Superintendent of Schools Robert Pokorny this morning to coordinate protection of school busses in the wake of a threat by a Bay Area killer of five that he was going to waylay a school bus and shoot children.

"All busses in the Vacaville school district will be protected by Vacaville police officers," Lehman announced.

Lehman also commented that rumors about the so-called Zodiac killer are "vicious and only cause panic. Any rumor about the killer can be confirmed or denied by placing a call to the Vacaville Police Department. Our phone number is 448-6262.

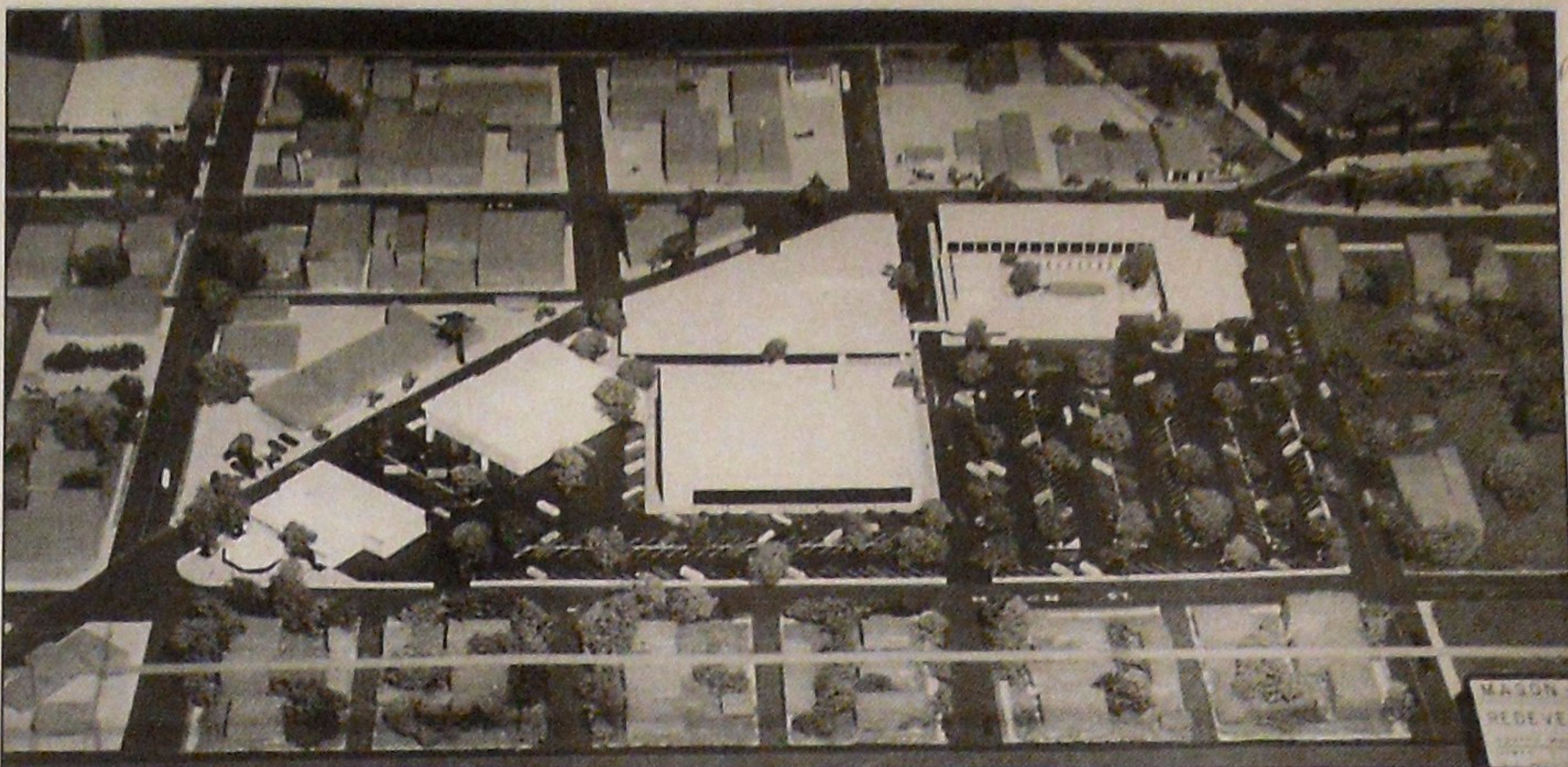
Citizens will be told the truth; nothing will be withheld."

Lehman urged parents not to follow school busses, as it "would only confuse the issue. Our officers would be forced to challenge any such vehicle, despite a parent's good intentions."

The police chief further urged that parents "know where their children are at all times, and instill in them the need to stay in populated areas . . . and especially to stay away from 'lovers lane' situations."

Solano County sheriff's officers are "giving full protection" to county busses, the office of education reports.

The Reporter
Oct. 20, 1969



Reporter file photo

A proposed \$12 million renewal project shown in model above was scrapped after the "clean sweep" election in 1962.

Renewal effort forces recall ...

(Continued from Page 15)

for any newly elected democratic regimen wanting to eliminate the appointees of the last administration.

The Planning Commission also was revamped. The council dismissed six members and reduced the number of commission seats from nine to five because it was "too cumbersome," according to coverage in the June 14, 1962 edition of The Reporter. Although Berton Hassing claimed he had "no personal ax to grind," he pointed out that most of the commission members had campaigned all out — and at least one member house-to-house — "in a vigorous effort to perpetuate the former City Council."

The council majority also stood behind Bagley's idea to seek changes to the proposed westbound offramp on Interstate 80 at Monte Vista Avenue.

They voted for a design change done by Bagley, which infuriated the opposition led by the Nut Tree. The first design plan approved by the previous council would better serve traffic flow to the growing restaurant complex.

The mayor ran newspaper ads to rally support for his plan and raising questions about the safety of "the Nut Tree plan."

Long and combative meetings ensued, including a testy meeting of the Chamber of Commerce.

"Robert Power, a co-owner of the Nut Tree, contended that Bagley's design proposal is an effort to put the Nut Tree out of business for political purposes," according to The Reporter's coverage of the chamber's meeting.

The Nut Tree pushed back harder at Bagley's plan, buying its own full-page ads in support of the approved state plan. Company employees and supporters to packed the council chambers at hearings on the plan. On a cold December evening, 400 people, many standing outside and listening to a public address system, heard one speaker after another argue and fight with the mayor and the council for four hours.

Bagley disputed that any personal grudge against the Nut Tree was behind his plan as charged by his opponents. As he said repeatedly during his tenure in office, he was looking out for the whole of Vacaville and not just certain special interests.

*"At times you would think:
'We'll never get through this.'
(People) just wanted to be able
to live their lives without this
constant controversy showing
up in the newspaper and on the
streets of downtown."*

Mike Conner

But he picked an issue not just in the hands of the city but the state and federal government as well. Funds were allocated, land contracts set and groundwork started. After keeping mum on the issue during the December 1962 city hearings, the state Department of Highways simply informed Vacaville officials in early February it was sticking to the original design.

The failed offramp fight was the icing on the recall cake. The controversy galvanized the opposition in their outrage over the conduct and decisions of Bagley and Collins, although a 4-1 council majority had backed the pair.

On Feb. 11, 1963, an attorney from the Recall Yes Committee stood before the City Council and took the unprecedented step of serving recall notices to Mayor Bagley and Councilman Collins.

In 24 hours, 900 signatures were collected for each of the two recall petitions. Recall Election Day was set for May 28, 1963.

While the Recall Yes Committee campaigned against Bagley and Collins in newspaper ads, the controversial mayor and his supporters started The Equalizer newsletter to print stories they believed The Reporter refused to cover. (The Equalizer was the precursor to the Vacaville Sentinel, an alternative newspaper Bagley started after recall for the same reasons.)

The recall battle split the town wide open, causing brothers not to speak, friends

and families to take sides and left deep personal and political wounds.

On recall day, 87 percent of voters turned out, casting a total of 2,672 votes. Bagley held on to his job by seven votes. Collins survived by 170 votes.

A letter to the editor in The Reporter's Feb. 14, 1963, edition raised a question that may point to why the recall was not successful.

"We possibly do not all agree with their very actions, but do we scream 'recall' when their decisions displease us?" wrote M.K. Marsh.

By 1964, the City Council was tempered when Collins was defeated in his re-election bid. Ironically, Ted Chancellor, a Bagley Planning Commission appointee, and Roy Brown of Leisure Town, each received exactly the same number of votes. They ushered in a more conciliatory age of city politics.

Bagley still had the votes to be selected mayor and the new councilmembers decided to respect that majority.

"I know a great many people who are disappointed in our choice of mayor last night," said Chancellor in a press release to The Reporter April 23, 1964. "These are some of the very people who say they want civility in Vacaville."

In October 1965, Bagley resigned from the council. Moore wasn't interested in running for re-election, while Hassing would continue to serve on the council.

By 1970, Collins had sold his business and moved away.

"At times you would think: 'We'll never get through this,'" recalled Conner who chose not to run for City Clerk in 1964 and sought employment in the private sector. "(People) just wanted to be able to live their lives without this constant controversy showing up in the newspaper and on the streets of downtown."

The 1962 City Council changed Vacaville's old guard politics forever and ushered in the city management form of government. Adopted in 1966 at the request of newly promoted City Manager Walter Graham, it required department heads report only to the city manager who then deals directly with the councilmembers, creating a more professional atmosphere in which carry out the people's business.

City splits over renewal struggle ...

(Continued from Page 15)

Main Street at Davis Street, the area extended west to Merchant Street, down Merchant to Mason Street and east back up to Davis Street. A total of 47 buildings were in the area, of which 20 were private residences.

All but nine of the buildings would be torn down. Property owners would be paid fair market value while business and homeowners would be given compensation for moving. Vacaville had won approval from the federal government for \$1.2 million to invest in rebuilding the site.

Despite reassurances of the agency's staff that the government would give them a fair deal, many property owners were distrustful.

Western Auto Parts store owner Bert Hassing who would be elected to the council in the big upset election of 1962, fired off one of the first letters to the editor that summed up opposition to the plan: "Can you move your newspaper to another building chosen by the Redevelopment Agency for the sum of \$3,000 which is their top offer? You can't move for \$15,000 and neither can I," said Hassing in the July 14, 1961, edition. "If we have higher rents and more taxes to face in the next 20 years, we merchants will never be able to compete price wise."

Agency members, appointed by the City Council, naively believed it was just a matter of letting people know how and when their property would be purchased.

The power to call a person's home "blighted" and deem it unfit for renovation was insulting as well as frightening for many of Vacaville's Spanish and Italian families who owned homes in the project area.

Poultry shop owner and soon-to-be City Councilman Bueford Moore shared their fear. As a child, he had watched his widowed mother fight the federal government as it tried to take the family ranch and pay \$800 less than what was owed for it.

What riled up redevelopment opposition even more was word that Vacaville Development Inc., made up of the Nut Tree family members, was planning a \$700,000 motel development for the targeted area.

At its October 1961 informational meeting, the redevelopment agency presented the Mason-Davis renewal project as if it were a done deal. Rather it was the beginning of a community backlash that would result in the 1962 sweep of the City Council regime and a mandate to end redevelopment.

Attending property owners questioned "fair market value" and the worthiness of tearing down their buildings. When a

woman heckled the agency staff, planning consultant Leon Rimov responded by telling the audience. "If you don't want anything done, go to your council and tell them you want the town to rot."

Blanche Rogers, who would become a staunch opponent, was one of the few to note the historical importance of the Main Street Rebekah Lodge of which she was an active member. When Rogers looked at the pictures in the Redevelopment Agency office on Main Street, she declared in a story in The Reporter: "It makes me mad. People just can't be shoved around."

Despite the council election upset in April 1962 that sent redevelopment supporters packing, the renewal project died a slow death.

Lawsuits and counter suits filed by both sides failed to resolve the issue.

At last, in the fall of 1963, agency members agreed to first dissolve the project and then resign from the agency. They had warned redevelopment opponents that \$80,000 invested by the federal government would have to be paid back by the city.

Redevelopment wouldn't return to Vacaville for nearly 20 years. And after more than 15 years of trying to get its money back, the federal government finally gave up.

1960-1969

THE PAST CENTURY

Modern retirement living

Seniors community opens doors

By Sally Miller Wyatt
Special to The Reporter

Leisure Town — an entirely new concept for the times — attracted hundreds of older, retired homeowners during the early 1960s.

The new community for those 50 and older, on the outskirts of Vacaville, was touted in a July 1962 Reporter story as the "largest private development of its kind in the country."

Reporter subscribers by that time had been reading about the Leisure Town concept for more than two years. A February 1960 article revealed that plans to build the first 200 of more than 800 homes would begin soon.

Leisure Town would be a "future recreational city," the article noted, probably a "city unto itself," boasting such amenities as its own shopping center, as well as an executive golf course. A shopping area would anchor the town hall, which would be surrounded by pools, an arts and crafts building, a church site, professional offices and a fire station.

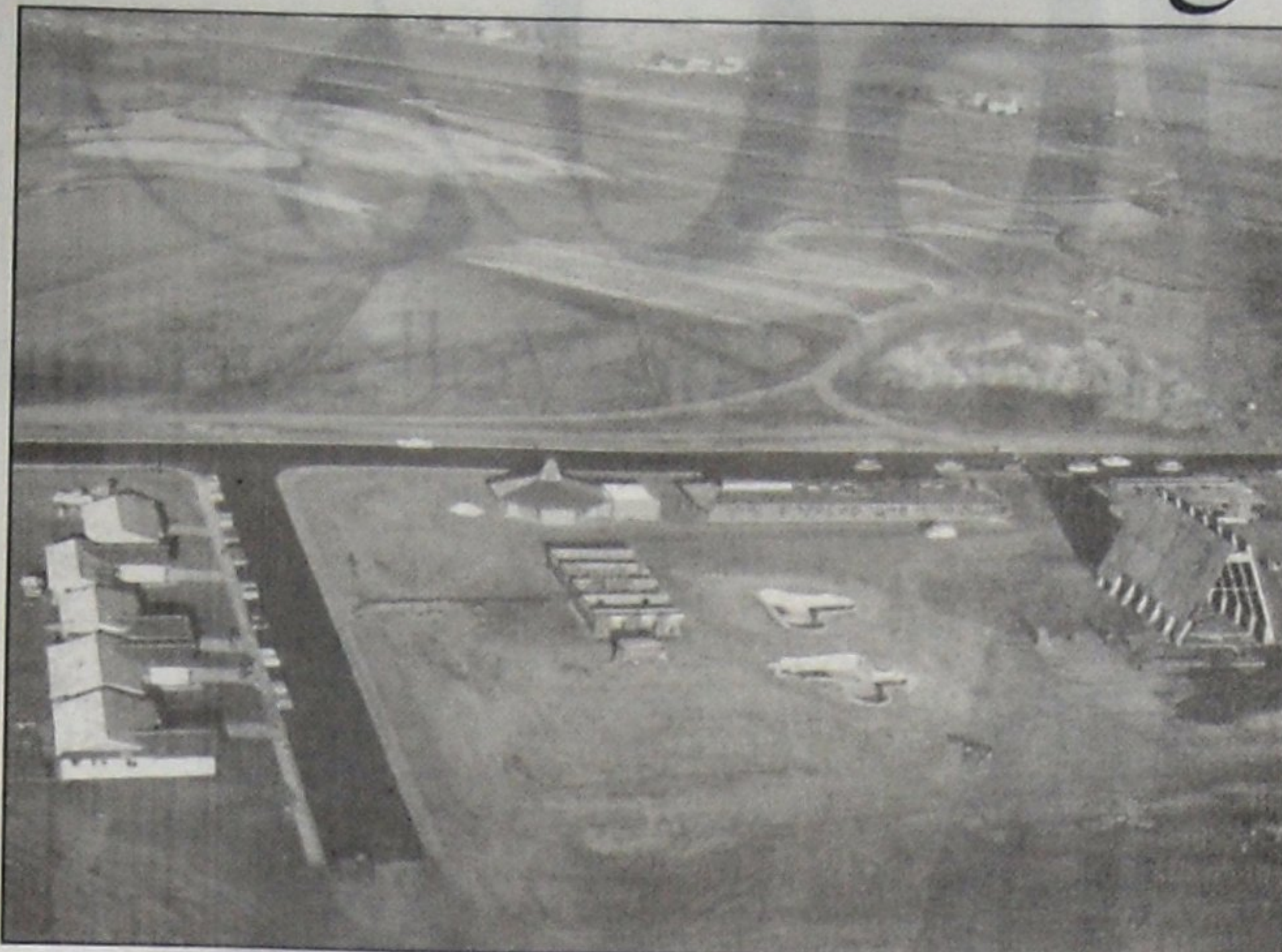
Construction began on the model homes by the fall of 1960 and workers were "racing against the rains." Developers also hoped to complete "six homes a day over the next six years."

The golf course officially opened Oct. 28, 1960, but by March 1961, the golf course was expanded to a full 18 holes.

In October 1962, a story in The Reporter updating the progress of the construction noted that if all homes were built as planned, Leisure Town could add 8,000 people to Vacaville's population, raising the area total to as many as 20,000 residents.

Readers also learned that architects intended to include "gas lights at the end of each driveway," to create "a more residential atmosphere than standard street lights." The amenity was expected to add about 60 cents a month to a homeowner's gas bill.

Model homes opened for



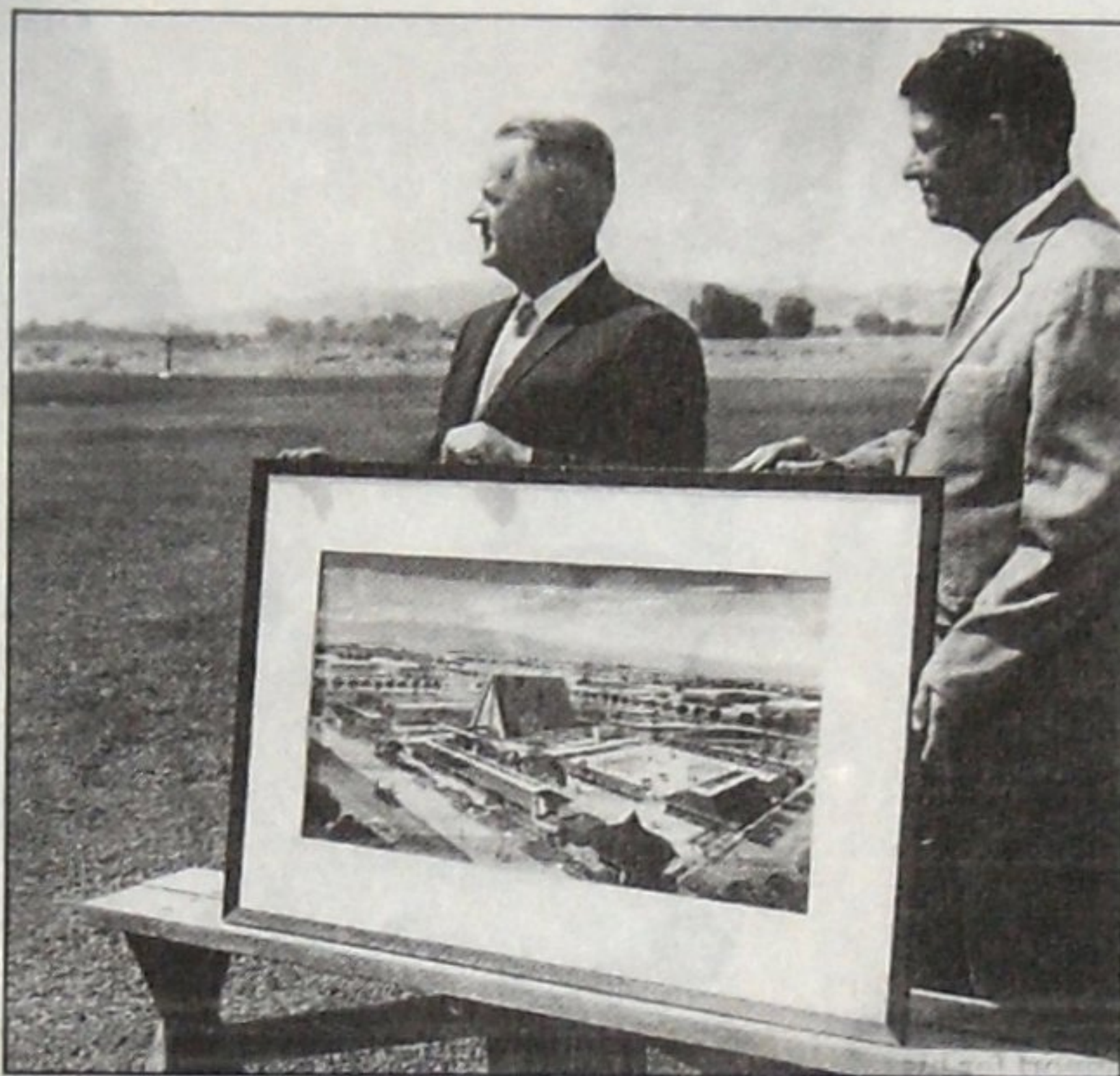
An aerial view shows early construction at what would become Leisure Town.

public viewing in mid-November 1962, and they drew "throng" of interested buyers. In fact, 15 houses already had been sold by that time. Although no formal ceremonies were held, it was estimated that more than 1,000 people came to see these new homes.

Leisure Town officially opened in late November 1962. An advertisement in The Reporter noted that the homes were to feature full air conditioning and central gas heating, shake roofs with wide overhangs, insulated ceilings, a kitchen pantry, large linen closets, a snack bar in the kitchen and lawns in the front and rear, with prices for both homes and apartments ranging from \$10,000 to \$17,000.

By February 1963, more than 150 families had purchased homes in the new community. Leisure Town houses were selling so well it was later announced that 300 more homes would be built. A groundbreaking was held for the new, 8,000-square-foot shopping center, and plans were unveiled for an apartment complex.

The Nut Tree, in an effort to "spread the welcome mat" for its new neighbors, held a special gathering in April 1963. A Reporter photograph in July 1963 welcomed some of Leisure



Helge Harms (left) and Tony Syar, construction partners in Leisure Town, hold a rendering of what the community would become.

Town's first residents — Mr. and Mrs. William Walmuth of Oakland and Mr. and Mrs. John Crossfield of San Francisco.

Within months, Leisure Town residents, hardly idling away their retirement years, already were making an impact on the area. An August 1963 Reporter article noted that a group to boost civic action was being formed. The new Booster Club would be headed up by

Roy Brown and Eugene Outman.

Within years, the area had become a "GOP stronghold," according to a November 1966 Reporter article. By 1968, there were so many news items of note and activities to be announced in Leisure Town, that a regular feature called "Leisure Town Log," edited by Marion Pratt, was running in The Reporter.

Sierra Children's opens its heart for kids in need

By Barbara Smith
Special to the Reporter

Children who found themselves orphaned, abandoned or in need of protection, even from their own parents, in the mid-1960s could find a haven in rural Vacaville — the Sierra Children's Home.

Founded by the Church of Christ, the Sierra Children's Home put to rest the negative, bleak perception of the conventional orphanage and welcomed unlucky children into a bright haven of love, nurturing and the stability of a structured family life. There was even a mom and a dad, as real as these children could hope for, waiting for them.

Located on 70 acres east of Hartley's Gum Grove on what is now Midway Road, the land had 300 pecan trees. The children raised their own corn and beef. The campus consisted of two large homes with six bedrooms each, study rooms and dining rooms where children ate their meals family style with their house parents. The home was complete with a pony, named "Old Bomber."

A feature story in The Reporter read: "The large linen closets built in the home were filled with 175 handmade quilts contributed by women of the church."

And the significant role of the house parents was poignantly illustrated in the handmade Christmas card a 9-year-old girl gave to her house father: "Dear Daddy, I love you. You are the only Daddy I ever had."

The home was built and supported by the Church of Christ, which had 28 such homes operating throughout the United States. But the community of Vacaville also did its share in helping the home. Circle D Horseman's Association held annual benefit shows. Retired teachers from Leisure Town tutored children with special needs. A new set of silverware came from donated Betty Crocker coupons. Stamp books purchased a Volkswagen bus.

The first home on the property was built by mostly volunteer labor and opened in October 1962.

By October 1963, the home was providing shelter for eight children, who resided with Mr. and Mrs. Archie McCord, the first "house parents." Mrs. Margaret Keller, social services director for the home, told The Reporter, "These children are not delinquent — they are just emotionally upset... they're wonderful children."

"Our plan is to return them to their homes whenever possible. But while they are here, we offer them security and love away from

home."

Construction of the second home was underway in the summer of 1964.

By the end of 1965, both houses were filled to capacity. No further plans were made to expand.

In December 1962, The Remark restaurant sponsored a golf tournament, raising \$2,000 for playground equipment for the home.

In May 1963, the home's 25th birthday was celebrated. A large, striped tent was erected on the property's pasture, with Nut Tree catering old-fashioned, ribbon-tied box lunches.

Honored guests were Dow and Nora Stinnett Schroeder. Nora Stinnett Schroeder

and her late husband, Perry Stinnett, had been instrumental in the founding of the home. Dow Schroeder had served on the home's board for 25 years.

Elma Cannon, the widow of the home's first executive director, Sherman L. Cannon, was flown in from Los Angeles for the occasion. Mary Lou Gustavsen, who served as the home's secretary for 18 years, was also an honored guest.

Keynote speaker Michael C. Armour, president of Columbia Christian College of Portland, Ore., traced Christian involvement with child care back to early Roman history, when children often were abandoned and Christian groups started "homes" for them.

Following the 1963 anniversary celebration, Sierra Children's Home's ownership and management changed as well as the focus of the home's operation.

The home left the hands of the Church of Christ and was managed by Agape Villages Inc.

By 1996, children residing in Sierra Children's Home were now "troubled teens." In June of that year, two girls were arrested on suspicion of starting a fire that destroyed one of the cottages.

In March 1999, Agape Villages announced the home would be changing its focus, which would require clearing out the teenagers presently living there and making way for new children with more manageable, simpler needs.

"We realized that our resources could be better used if we focused our efforts on foster care services instead of residential treatment services," said Dick Blythe, president of Agape Villages.

It was reported that once new residential treatment homes were found for the children residing there, and the transition was complete, the existing campus would house more than 36 foster children.

The home remains closed today.

Paying for education concern at Sierra Children's Home

Orphaned children or not, the potential cost of educating the children of Sierra Children's Home became a debate so heated the controversy made the list of The Reporter's "Top Ten News Events for 1960."

The furor erupted in October 1960. The land was purchased for \$37,500 by the Church of Christ. The master plan for the Vacaville home called for constructing, over a 15-year period, several houses as well as administrative, religious, school and recreational facilities. A successful fund-raising campaign was underway, and it was time to break ground for the first home.

Routine approvals, including a land use permit from the Solano County Planning Commission, were required prior to construction.

No glitches were expected. After all, this was only about orphaned and displaced children being provided a home at the expense of the church.

The Vacaville school board opposed Sierra Children's Home because it would be established in their district which would have to "bear the extra burden of educating children housed in a tax-free institution."

The officials of St. Paul's United Methodist church took "sharp issue" with the school board, and urged the action of the trustees "be denounced by all Christians. If all the communi-

ties reacted in this manner, public free education would be denied to orphaned children."

Dr. Paul Nielsen, president of the school board, told The Reporter "we never intended to stop construction of the Sierra Children's Home."

He explained that the school district lacked the facilities and funds for additional students. They merely wanted the directors of the home to make education provisions for the children housed there.

Within a week, Sierra Children's Home directors and school board members met, and an agreement was reached.

Nielsen emphasized that "the board was not backing down under pressure because of the furor which resulted from its original stand."

District Superintendent Fred L. Patterson explained that because the home was the property of the church, it was not subject to property taxes, and local taxpayers would have to bear a "healthy sum in the event of a large enrollment from the home."

And a bus might even be required to transport them from their orphanage to their school.

Even though the land use permit was granted, The Reporter predicted that "the outrage would be discussed sharply in local circles for some time to come."

— By Barbara Smith

Caped Vacaman comes flying in to save the day

Look ... up in the sky ... it's a bird, it's a plane ... no, it's Vacaman! A caped crusader in satin pants and all the other solid mahogany cliches that go with him is what a subcommittee of the Forward Vacaville committee envisions as a promotional scheme for Vacaville.

The committee revealed its plans at a Forward Vacaville meeting last night. The possibilities for "Vacaman" are endless, and they see him attending public openings, ribbon cuttings, and being inconspicuously present at city-wide events. "If a large public event is held, you can bet that Vacaman will get plenty of newspaper and television exposure," it was reported.

The committee further envisioned their hero coming to town in an appropriate car, complete with spotlights and cheering kids. He would, for instance, be photographed trying on shoes at a shoe store opening, or eating a pizza at such a restaurant.

First, a contest could be held among residents to determine what their benefactor should look like, as far as costume is concerned. Then when the costume is made, all that is needed is a young, energetic man who would be willing to wear it. The ability to fly a la Superman would not be a requisite, the committee indicated.

The general idea for "Vacaman" received support by the Forward Vacaville committee last night, mainly because it appeared the subcommittee is determined to go ahead with it.

If successful, the idea could be expanded to more than one hero and who knows Gotham City Vacaville could have its own dynamic duo.

The Reporter
July 18, 1968

A Groovy Vacaman

The Vacaman contest is over and we have a winner. But when the contest was started several weeks ago few people ever thought that the majority of Vacaville residents would picture a town hero as a hip swinger.

But this is the design that received the most votes. Perhaps it is only fitting that the man representative of Vacaville today should be a man for today: mod and groovy.

The winning Vacaman design was submitted by young Joe Lopez 112 Anita Ct. It was judged a weekly winner on Sept. 16 and became eligible to compete for the grand prize in the Vacaman design contest. The contest was the brainchild of the Forward Vacaville Committee and generated such interest that several dozen designs were submitted.

The winning design wins for Lopez gift certificates from Sir Guy's store for men, McElroy's Shoes, Posters Toys, Ben Franklin store, Parks Sports Store and Robert's clothes. The certificates total \$35 in merchandise.

Original plans called for the making of a costume, using the winning design, but aside from a black cape and mask, there would be little work involved in making Vacaman's costume. It features houndstooth slacks, a Nehru coat and a "V" peace symbol.

All that is left is finding a potential Vacaman with a beard, mustache and sideburns. But even that shouldn't be hard to find today.



This "hip swinger," shown in an Oct. 7, 1968, Reporter story, was the result of a Forward Vacaville Committee contest to promote city events.

VACAMAN

The 1960's

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1960-1969

THE PAST CENTURY

Getting the mail to the people of Vacaville

Post office opens

Vacaville Post Office box holders must begin picking up their mail at the new post office building on East Monte Vista Avenue at noon tomorrow (Friday), and all services will be made available at the new location only beginning Saturday morning.

Clerks will be on duty during post office hours, 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8:30 a.m. until noon on Saturday to exchange keys with post office box holders. Box numbers will remain the same in the new location as in the old building, Main and Parker streets. There are more boxes available at the new location, however, which can be rented at any time during the course of regular business hours.

One new feature at the new location that has been long awaited by Vacaville post office patrons is the self-service stamp vending machine. The machine will dispense stamps to patrons who feed it nickels, dimes, quarters, and thus will afford patrons 24-hour stamp purchase service. For one nickel, a patron will receive one five-cent stamp. A dime will purchase two four-cent stamps and will dispense two cents change, and for one quarter a user will receive five five-cent stamps.

The old post office building here was opened in 1937, and was constructed at a cost of \$67,760. There are 4600 square feet in the building at Main and Parker Streets. It is owned by the federal government.

The new building, completed during December, is owned by the Leo Daley Company of Omaha, Neb., and is under lease to the federal government. It offers about 10,000 square feet, and was constructed at a cost of \$5,600. Because it is privately owned and leased to the government, it will remain on the local tax rolls.

Currently there are 40 employees in the post office department here, an increase of 27 since 1948. In June, 1964, there were 5143 residential stops, 212 business stops and 1097 rural stops in the Vacaville area. In June, 1966, there were 4966 residential stops, 366 business stops and 1175 rural stops.

During the five year period from 1961 through 1966, mail originating in the local post office increased by 758,290 pieces per year. In 1961, 2,484,111 pieces of mail originated from the Vacaville post office. Last year, 3,241,401 were processed.

The new post office building will remain open 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

The Reporter
Jan. 5, 1967



The new Vacaville Post Office (left) located on Monte Vista Avenue was dedicated on Feb. 4, 1967.

Reporter file photo

♦ A radical departure

With Vacaville's new post office completed and opened to the public, its location on Monte Vista Avenue is a radical departure from the familiar site of the office which has been along Main Street ever since it was established here.

The new building and its new location must be credited to progress, despite the fact that there will be some inconvenience for those persons who have been accustomed to having the facility in the downtown Main Street area.

The recently vacated post office building at the corner of Main and Parker Streets, con-

structed in 1937, outlived its usefulness in 30 years. Not many persons alive today, who attended the dedication ceremonies of that building, envisioned the community growing from one less than 1600 population to the nearly 20,000 today.

Unfortunately, the Post Office Department seems to be obsessed with the philosophy that it is in the business of receiving and distributing the mail, and that aesthetics are of no concern to the department.

Well, we've got a new post office, so we'll let it go at that.

The Reporter
Jan. 12, 1967

♦ Postmarked: 'Nut Tree'

There's a new post office designation in the Vacaville area which bears the postmark of "Nut Tree, California."

According to Robert Power, co-owner of the Nut Tree, the Post Office department has designated the new independent rural station at the Nut Tree, and all services available at any post office will be available at the new Nut Tree post office beginning Nov. 1.

The new post office facility will be under the supervision of Postmaster Earl Chamberlain of the Vacaville post office and all revenues from the office will be credited to the Vacaville post office. Power said that the call win-

dow will be open from 8 to 5 week days, and that a woman would be on duty at all times.

Motorists stopping at the Nut Tree will be able to avail themselves of this new service. Any person in the area can take advantage of this service if he so desires.

Robert Power has been designated as clerk in charge of the new post office, and all expenses incurred in the operation of the office will be borne by the Nut Tree — with the exception of \$1 a year, which the Post Office Department has earmarked for the service.

The Reporter
Oct. 29, 1962

A PART OF HISTORY



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Chunky woollen sweaters, worn with tapered slacks which were fashionable for many years in the 1960's.

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"Remington - America's Oldest Gun Manufacturer"

1960 - Remington introduces plastic body shotgun shells.
1961 - A review of economic potential of foreign markets for Remington products result in investment by Remington in two new affiliates during 1962, one in Germany and the other in Mexico.
1962 - The New Model 700 bolt action rifle was announced and soon became the most popular bolt action rifle in the market.
1963 - The Model 1100 autoloading shotgun was introduced. This gun was the result of a three year development program.
1964 - Remington Arms International GmbH, formed in 1961 to distribute chain saws and accessories in Europe, was dissolved due to the development of more effective independent distributors in Europe.
1966 - Remington commemorated the 150th anniversary of its founding.
1967 - Cartuchos de Portavios de Mexico, SA in which Remington had a 40% interest, declared its first cash dividend. The manufacturing and marketing of centerfire pistol and revolver ammunition had been added to the production of shotgun shells, cartridges and lead shot.
1969 - Remington completed the sale of its power tool business to DESA Industries, Inc. Two plants were included in the transaction.



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1960-1969

THE PAST CENTURY

Phone exchange hits grand old 70

Vacaville's telephone exchange is 70 years old this month.

The exchange was set up in 1891 in the old Vacaville drug store owned by a young man named J.M. Miller. The store was on Main Street in the spot now occupied by Strauman's Department Store.

Miller was enthusiastic about the possibilities of the telephone. In 1884, several years before the exchange opened, Miller personally persuaded John I. Sabin, president of the Sunset Telephone and Telegraph Company (later Pacific Telephone), to have a telephone installed in his store.

The line for this phone went through a switchboard at Elmira and was hooked to a line between San Francisco and Sacramento.

Then when the exchange opened, Miller built the lines and paid for the phones for his first two customers to convince

them they needed a phone service. The two customers — Dr. J.S. Cunningham and L.W. Buck — were soon convinced and began paying for their own phone service.

By 1892 there were 23 phones in the exchange, most of them served to 10-party lines.

The 1898, directory listed a Chinese store, one dentist, a bank, 21 ranchers and fruit growers, four packing firms, a lumber yard, five stores and several residence customers.

By 1900 there were 80 phones, and then 236 phones by 1910 when the exchange was moved to the Schroeder building.

The present Pacific Telephone office at 310 Elizabeth Street opened 12 years ago.

By 1945 there were 645 telephones in Vacaville, but today there are over 5,000, according to Pacific Telephone Manager W.P. Seidell.

The Reporter
Jan. 6, 1961

Vacans learn to dial longer phone numbers

Effective Aug. 14, Vacaville telephone subscribers will have to dial all seven digits of a telephone number to complete local calls.

According to Pacific Telephone Manager W.P. Seidell, subscribers will have to dial the three numerals of the prefix — 448 — then the other four numerals in the number.

The change to seven numbers is the first step in Pacific Telephone's program to connect

7600 Vacaville phone customers in a "toll-free" calling area with Travis AFB.

The "toll-free" calling is tentatively scheduled to go into service Nov. 20. With the new service, callers in the "toll-free" area will be able to talk to each other as long as and as often as they wish over the phone without having to pay long-distance charges, according to Seidell.

The Reporter
Aug. 5, 1965

GREAT GIFTS for the Graduate! DECCA PHONOGRAPHS



THE CONWAY 1
DP-561

Four speed automatic portable Hi-Fi Phonograph with separate volume and tone controls.

\$44⁹⁵

THE SUTTON
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High fidelity four-speed automatic portable phonograph with tilt-down front.

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OUR CHOICE FROM OVER 200 45 'POPS'
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Coming of the hi-fi age

Two advertisements in The Reporter, one on Aug. 15, 1960 (near left), and another from May 28, 1964, show the electronic age is well on its way. TV and hi-fi equipment would be part of Vacans' lives forever.

Vacaville sees coming of cable television

General Electric Cablevision CATV service will be available in about four weeks in sections of the city best described as the west and southwest section.

Installation of CATV lines is completed in what GE calls area 1, south of Interstate 80 in the area of Alamo Road, and work is underway in area 2. This includes, roughly, the area bordered by Merchant Street, Peach Tree Avenue, Alamo Drive and Kentucky Street.

Work will begin in an area to the immediate east of section 2 next, and when completed

will allow service in sections 1, 2 and 3.

CATV, community antenna television, is an optional service, and residents here may subscribe to it as they would for telephone service, at a monthly cost of \$4.95. This figure pays for the first outlet installed, and additional outlets will be available at a monthly rental fee of \$1.

Installation cost will be \$15. Customers subscribing to the service within two weeks of its availability, however, will not pay any installation charge.

Service to the entire Vacaville area will be available by mid-June, according to a

company spokesman. Leisure Town will be the last area in which service will be made available.

CATV is carried through cables which generally follow existing public utility lines.

This means where overhead power and telephone lines exist, CATV will likewise be brought in from overhead. And where such lines are underground, now required in Vacaville in all new subdivisions, CATV lines will be underground.

The Reporter
Jan. 16, 1969

Solano's home page

Make TheReporter.Com your first stop when you're exploring the web.

We offer a complete package of daily news, sports, weather and features. Plus the special editions you've come to expect from the journalists at The Reporter.

Here's a sampling of our local content:

- ✓ Local weather forecasts, updated twice a day.
- ✓ Custom television logs: Search up-to-date listings for the next two weeks.
- ✓ ClassLink, our local classified ads combined with ads from more than 600 papers around the country.
- ✓ Complete coverage of the local high school and college football seasons, updated after the games for same-day scores.
- ✓ Money saving coupons from local merchants.

All this and much more are only a mouse click away at Solano's home page...

TheReporter.Com

Camp Ulati begins

Thanks to the efforts of the Vacaville Recreation Department, 28 local youngsters are now enjoying day camp at Camp Ulati at the site of the historical Pena Adobe west of this city.

These 28 are the first of four groups who will be afforded the opportunity to take part in the many activities at Camp Ulati each weekday.

John McBride, recreation director, reported that four two-week sessions of camping have been planned. A fee of \$15 per child, 9 through 12 years old, entitles the youngster to two weeks of attendance at the well-supervised camp.

Among activities which the children anxiously look forward to each day are classes on folklore, nature studies, historical talks on the Indians who settled in this area many years ago, map reading and cookouts.

The first-session group of youngsters is scheduled to host their parents for an old-fashioned cookout tomorrow evening.

Boys and girls really enjoy going on hunts for Indian arrowheads, which are abundant in the Pena Adobe area. They also like to catch frogs, snakes and other wild animals to study, McBride said.

Enthusiastic camp counselors, who do their best to make the children's camp stays as interesting and exciting as possible, are Stefan Savides, Gail Campbell, Mike Golomb and Centella Wilson.

One project which the boys and girls accomplished was making an appropriately decorated Indian teepee out of a discarded parachute. They also made a camp flag to raise along with the American flag each morning.

The flag raising ceremony each morning starts off a wholesome and fun-filled day for the campers.

Children are transported to the camp every day by bus. Parents need only to pack sack lunches.

By Joe Singleton III,
The Reporter
July 11, 1966

Students unearth remains

About 50 human remains — most of them over 2000 years old — have been uncovered by University of California explorations in an orchard south of Vacaville during the past year, it was revealed today.

Anthropology students from UC Davis, digging and sifting soil each week on the site, are continuing to unearth evidence of civilization dating before the time of Christ, the Vacaville Reporter learned.

Dr. Martin Baumhoff, UC anthropology professor directing the project, termed the site — on the Charles Cook property near Highway 40 and Cherry Glen road — of statewide importance.

Most of the skeletal remains are of Indians who apparently had a village on the ground some 20 centuries ago, Professor Baumhoff said.

He revealed that some remains also have been uncovered of humans buried in the "late pre-white" age or within a few hundred years prior to Spanish rule.

In addition to skeletal evidence, the professor said, box loads of artifacts have been unearthed. These include implements for grinding acorns, arrow points, charm stones and beads.

The Reporter
March 23, 1964



Reporter file photo

Pena Adobe (above) in Lagoon Valley just south of Vacaville was falling to the ground when efforts began in the early 1960s to save this part of Vacaville history.

Preserving Vacaville History

Effort grows to save, restore Pena Adobe

By Sally Miller Wyatt
Special to The Reporter

While there was plenty of new development throughout Vacaville in the 1960s, there was also an endeavor to preserve the past.

Efforts to restore Pena Adobe south of Vacaville — the oldest building in Solano County and home of one of Vacaville's pioneer families — began in earnest in early 1961.

Manuel Vaca and Juan Filipe Pena were the first settlers of the area in 1841. They built their adobes in the Lagoon Valley where Pena and his wife Isabella raised their six children. And it was from the vast 44,384-acre Pena and Vaca land grant, Los Puntos, that Vacaville was formed. Vaca deeded 9 square miles to William McDaniel for \$3,000 and the promise the city would be called Vacaville. A town was born.

It was the Solano Historical Society that advanced the idea to preserve Pena Adobe, and the Lions Club soon endorsed it. A fund-raising drive was begun, and pledges were made to help restore the 120-year-old structure, which was badly deteriorated and close to collapsing.

By the fall of 1961, an article in The Reporter noted that work to restore the facility soon would begin, with the help of 15 inmates from California Medical Facility who were to work five days a week for the next three years. CMF also donated a supply of lumber.

Work got under way in January 1962, and two months later the county annexed the land "on Highway 40 to the city of Vacaville," putting the Pena Adobe within the city's limits.

A resolution in early 1963 to add a roadside rest area to the complex was nixed later that year, although by 1966 the City Council voted to add restrooms, water and electricity to the park area.

Up the road from the Pena Adobe restoration project, construction was under way for a freeway overpass at Lagoon Valley. Work crews unexpectedly unearthed an old cemetery in December 1963. The 15 graves found there were determined to be more than 100 years old and included the remains of two



Workers (left) take a moment of rest during the Pena Adobe restoration project. The structure was home of one of Vacaville's pioneer families. Today events are held at the park just off Interstate 80.

Vacaville Historical Council

adults and 13 children, according to employees of McCune Garden Chapel. The cemetery was relocated to the top of the hill behind the adobe.

Restoration at Pena Adobe also uncovered the remains of at least five Indians and numerous artifacts including buttons, old coins, Indian arrowheads and an Indian hammer. Merle Curtice, supervisor for the restoration project, also noted that digging had uncovered beads, necklaces, buttons and branding irons as well as more "modern" artifacts including bottles that had at one time held sarsaparilla and drugs.

Shortly afterward Vacaville Art League assumed ownership of the Segura family home on Monte Vista Avenue in May 1965, with plans to turn the old-time building into a gallery.

Not all of Vacaville's treasures were being enjoyed just by area residents. Some of Vacaville's antiquity made it into the Smithsonian Institution, when Vacaville Heritage Council member Arthur Dietz donated several old medical tools to the Smithsonian in August 1965. The items, which included a doctor's chair, nebulizer and electrotherapy machine, had been used by Dr. Middleton A. Stansbury.

With Pena Adobe safely restored, historians next turned their attention to the Old Town Hall and Jail. A June 12, 1969, Reporter article noted that it would become a future preservation project under the guidance of the Vacaville Heritage Council, with Arthur Dietz serving as president, Ber. Hughes as vice president and Betty Lorenzo as secretary.



Reporter file photo

A marker seems to stand sentinel (above) in front of the adobe before restoration begins.

Work begins on project

A supervisor for the Pena Adobe restoration project probably will be hired during the week of Nov. 20, with work to begin on the 100-year-old structure shortly thereafter, it was reported this week by City Administrator Robert Meyer.

Delay since the City Council accepted a deed for the historic adobe on Aug. 14 has been caused by the lack of a supervising expert, Meyer said. He explained that a prospective supervisor has been engaged in another project in San Francisco.

The applicant will be interviewed by city officials and by Dr. William Keating Jr., superintendent of the California Medical Facility.

CMF will supply the labor for the project — 15 inmates five days a week for three years — Dr. Keating assured the council four months ago.

About 20 state and local historians appeared before the council at that time, and

urged the city to undertake restoration of the historic structure on Highway 40, south of Vacaville.

Expenses will be divided among the county, the city and the Solano County Historical Society. The latter group presented the deed to the city and agreed to furnish funds and pledges totaling \$10,000 over the next three years.

A check for \$2,000 already has been received from the group, Meyer said.

About \$3,300 a year for three years also has been pledged by the Solano County Board of Supervisors and the City Council.

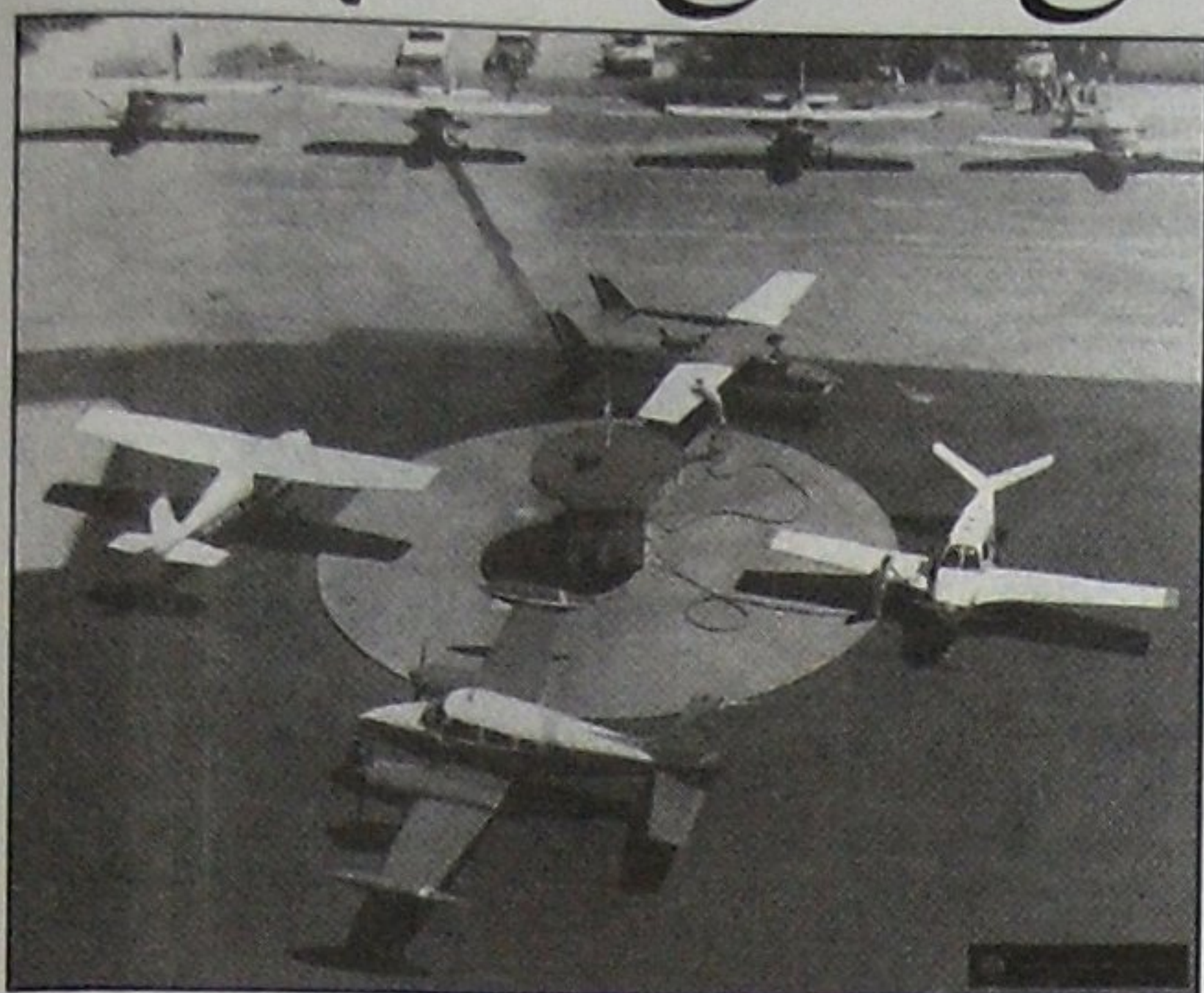
The project was made possible three years ago when two county supervisors, D.A. Mowers of Vacaville and William Goheen of Vallejo, purchased the adobe property and donated the adobe portion to the Historical Society.

The Reporter
Nov. 10, 1961

1960-1969

THE PAST CENTURY

Flying high at the Nut Tree Airport



Improvements to the Nut Tree Airport made during the 1960s included such additions as new fueling stations (above).

'Frosting' is added to airport upgrades

Four painters, fully armed with long-handled roller brushes this week began applying the finishing touches to 30-foot-high letters spelling "Nut Tree" in the center of the completely refurbished Nut Tree Airport runway.

The painting, which will continue until next week, is actually the frosting on the cake and will signal the end of an extensive improvement program which has been underway at the restaurant's modern air terminal for several weeks.

For as huge graders, curbs and pavers pulled out of the airport area this week, they left behind an extended runway, completely paved taxiway, parking ramp for more than 20 planes and an all-new gassing facility, all of which combine to make the Nut Tree Airport probably one of the finest facilities in the state.

While the airport has actually been an all-weather facility for several years, the Nut Tree management has long seen the need for a paved taxiway to and from the runway for a better flow of ground traffic during the rainy seasons. The new taxiway, now completely paved, is 25 feet wide and parallels the entire length of the extended runway.

The runway itself, which has been 1900 feet long since it was first paved several years ago, has been extended an additional 600 feet. The 2500-foot length is considered more than adequate to handle all types of aircraft and was done mainly to facilitate more adequately the increasing flow of air traffic there. Last year alone, for instance, a total of 10,692 planes landed at the Nut Tree. And six-month total for 1963 already indicates almost 6,000.

Airport sees record flying into Vacaville

Continuing popularity of the Nut Tree Airport, coupled with an increased number of airplanes and flyers in the Western United States, again has added up to a record number of incoming planes landing here during a calendar year.

A year-end count of aircraft shows a whopping total of 19,656 planes landed within city limits of Vacaville during 1967. As expected, the total represents an increase of 1233 planes over the 1966 total of 17,423.

Since the airport was first opened in 1955 the yearly count has increased steadily. No records of traffic were kept during the first two years of

"While the airport has actually been an all-weather facility for several years, the Nut Tree management has long seen the need for a paved taxiway to and from the runway for a better flow of ground traffic during the rainy seasons."

Following the new taxiway which ribbons its way through huge eucalyptus trees to the main parking area, pilots may now find a completely paved parking ramp, centered with a new aircraft gassing island, 50 feet in diameter.

As the construction was completed this week, the painters moved in for their work. The "Nut Tree" letters, 30 feet high, will require gallons of paint with two coats needed to cover.

The centerline stripe, running the length of the runway, will require three coats of paint and will be finished off with reflective glass beading for night illumination. A customary yellow stripe will be painted in the center of the length of the taxiway.

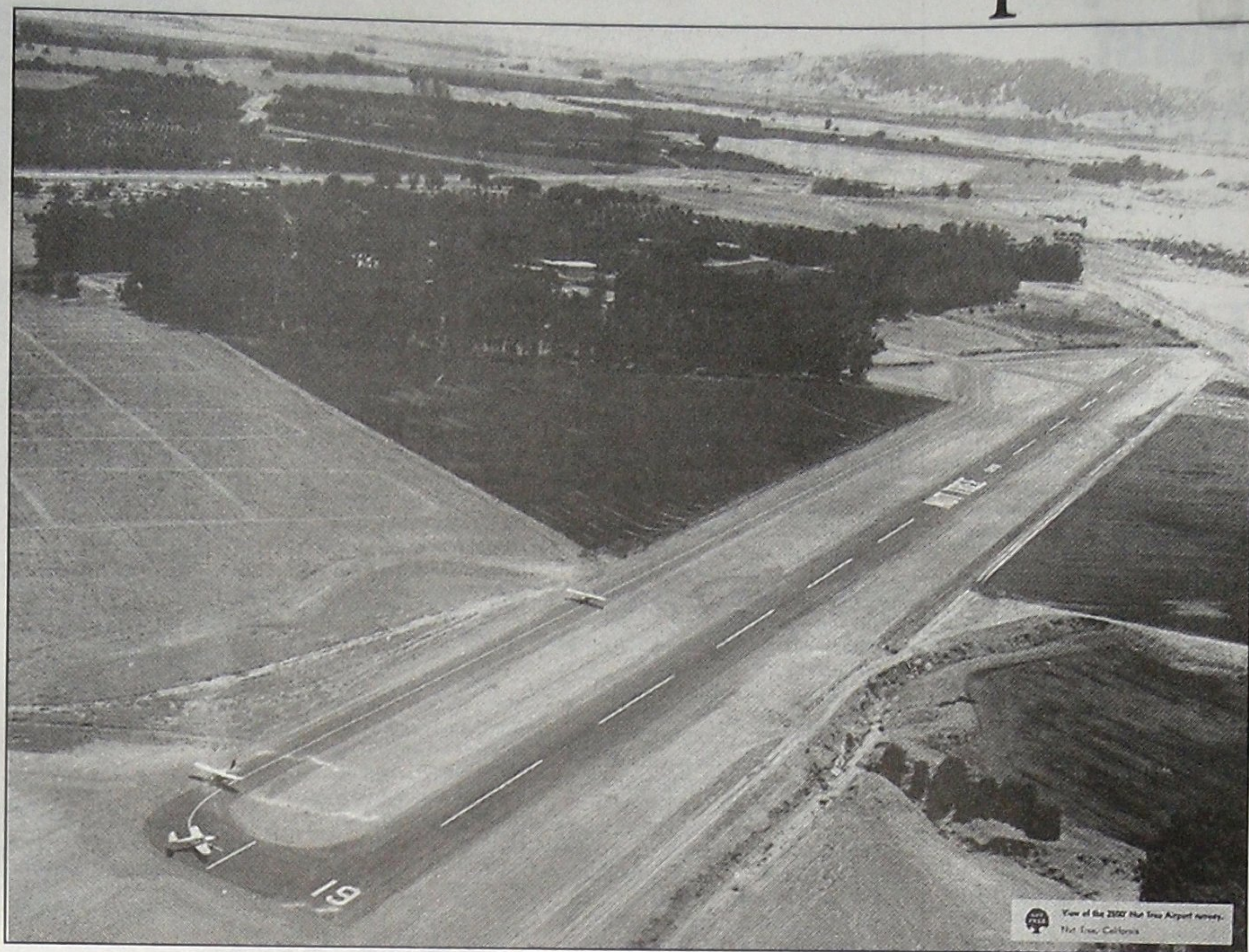
Following the annexation of the Nut Tree to the City of Vacaville more than a year ago, the airport is now in its city limits. For years local industry has used the airport as a base of operations for linking Vacaville with other cities throughout the West, and all look upon the new improvements as a definite step forward for Vacaville and aviation.

The Reporter
Aug. 8, 1963

operation, but the total recorded in 1957 showed 4153 planes landed on the strip. Activity increased annually until 1960 when there was a decrease of less than 300 planes over the 1959 totals. Since then, however, each year's totals have showed an annual increase of at least 1000 incoming aircraft.

The airport originally opened with a 1900-foot dirt runway in 1955. Since then the strip was paved and later extended to a length of 2500 feet. The airport was brought into the city limits of Vacaville several years ago with the annexation to the city of the Nut Tree.

The Reporter
Jan. 22, 1968



View of the 2500-foot Nut Tree Airport runway.
Nut Tree, California



The Nut Tree airport runway (above) was extended to 2,500 feet in the 1960s to improve safety to private pilots using it and to accommodate larger airplanes. The painting of the Nut Tree name on the runway (left) was the "frosting on the cake" for improvements made to the airport in the early 1960s.

Nut Tree photos

Commercial airline lands at Nut Tree

Vacaville Mayor Ted Chancellor will be among the passengers tomorrow on the initial Cal-State Airline San Francisco to Reno flight, joining the passenger list in Vacaville.

The mayor's flight will usher in the first regularly scheduled commercial airline service to Vacaville, at the Nut Tree Airport.

Effective March 1, the new airline will begin servicing Vacaville five times daily both east and west, with flights scheduled to make stops between San Francisco and Reno in Concord, Sacramento, Lake Tahoe (South Shore), Carson City and Vacaville.

Tomorrow's initial flight is scheduled to touch down on the Nut Tree Airport runway at 9:20 a.m., to pick up Chancellor, and then continue its flight, with luncheon in Reno scheduled for its passengers before returning.

According to airline President Dick Stevens, the airline will fly licensed, weather equipped Aero-Commander aircraft on all its flights.

A company spokesman told the Vacaville Reporter that an announcement of regularly scheduled daily flights commencing Tuesday into Vacaville will be made tomorrow morning.

The Reporter
Feb. 24, 1966

First Airline Flight: Mayor Snowbound



FIRST FLIGHT—Mayor Ted Chancellor (right) greets Richard Stevens (left), president of Cal State Airlines and E. R. Burton Jr., mayor of San Carlos, prior to departure Friday from the Nut Tree. The mayors joined other city officials for the inaugural flight to Reno. (Reporter Photo)

BY RICHARD RICO

At 10:15 Friday morning a sleek, twin engined Aero Commander airplane roared off the runway at the Nut Tree Airport to mark the beginning of scheduled airline service in and out of Vacaville.

The day will long be remembered for the first in-

augural flight here—and the day the mayor of Vacaville came home in a car.

While it took less than an hour's flight time for Mayor Ted Chancellor to make the trip to Reno Friday, it took him over six hours to get home. By rental car.

Cal State Airlines Flight 101, while trying to

will service, was no match for the weather. It was snow-bound in Carson City, Nev., due to heavy storms, and all the mayors on the trip returned home by car. And even then their return trip was a slow ordeal plagued with broken tire chains and slippery roads.

A story in the Feb. 28, 1966, Reporter tells how the mayors of several cities helped mark the beginning of airline service at the Nut Tree Airport.

1960-1969

THE PAST CENTURY

Four die in city's worst home fire

Boy escapes conflagration

Fire took the lives of four members of a Vacaville family early Friday morning — the worst fire tragedy in the city's history.

Francis Joseph Freeman, 43; his wife, Mary, 40; and their two daughters, Theresa (Terry), 16, and Julia Ann, 6, perished in the blaze that swept through their home at 201 Juniper early Friday morning.

A 12-year-old son, Jimmie, escaped death by running out the front door in an attempt to get help.

Two other members of the family, Mary Frances Freeman, 18, a student at Humboldt State College in Arcata, and Victoria, 20, in Napa hospital, were not home at the time of the tragic fire.

The Vacaville Fire Department was summoned at midnight. When trucks arrived the house already was completely involved, flames fanned by a strong west wind.

Firemen moved right in with air packs, but could find no one alive. Freeman's body was in the family room, where the fire apparently got its start. The 16-year-old girl was in a garage bedroom, the mother was in the front room and the body of the little girl was found in the back bedroom where she apparently died, overcome by smoke, but not burned.

According to Fire Chief Warren Hughes, Jimmie was awakened by smoke which caused him to begin coughing and choking. He first opened a bedroom window, then ran down the hallway toward the front door, thinking his little sister was behind him, in an effort to summon help.

Jimmie told Hughes and a Vacaville police sergeant Friday that at first he couldn't open the front door because the door knob was too hot. A second attempt at opening the door was successful however, and he ran to a neighbor's home.

The boy gasped out that his dad was trying to put the fire out in the living room, and that Julia Ann had been right behind him but apparently had turned back.

In light of the fire, ironically two days before the start of National Fire Prevention Week, Hughes issued an urgent appeal to area residents to take extra fire prevention precautions. Planning a family escape route and drilling are extremely important, Hughes told the Reporter.

Another area of extreme importance in fire prevention, Hughes pointed out, is securing proper building permits when making alterations or additions to a home.

Although it is not known whether she actually awakened and made an attempt to get out, a window in the bedroom where Theresa slept was not large enough to escape through, the ceiling of the room was not the standard eight feet in height (or higher), and one door from the bedroom led into a portion of the garage that had been converted into a workshop storage area. The bedroom additions had been built without a building permit.

By Ken Brown, The Reporter
Oct. 7, 1968

Death takes prominent Vacans

Ex-mayor, orchardist Uhl dies just shy of 98

Clarence J. Uhl, whose name has been synonymous with Vacaville for nearly 75 years, died Thursday night in a convalescent home in Sacramento where he had been for the past 2 1/2 years. In 20 days he would have reached the age of 98.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. George (Korns) Uhl, he was born Aug. 12, 1867, on a farm at Millersburg, Ohio. His great-grandfather had distinguished himself in the Revolutionary War and for this great service the family received a large land grant in 1820.

There were eight in the George Uhl family, and young C.J. spent his boyhood days doing farm chores. At 20 he was a freshman at Wittenburg University in Springfield, Ohio, but lack of funds forced him to leave school and go back to the farm.

Young Uhl was not one to sit still and, having an uncle, Levi Korn, in Vacaville, he inquired as to the opportunities in the state by the pacific. Receiving an encouraging reply, he boarded a train and made the trip to Vacaville.

It was the 8th day of May 1889, when young Uhl first set foot on Vacaville soil, and it was a warm and comfortable day. He hitchhiked to his uncle's ranch six miles from Vacaville, and with \$11 in his pocket, set out to make a place for himself in the agricultural world.

Fruit growing was fast becoming a lucrative business, and with the advent of the ventilated fruit car, young Uhl set out to save enough money so he could go into business for himself.

With \$450 in his pocket, and his new wife, Lulu Thompson, he rented his uncle's fruit farm.

In a few years, Uhl found a lucrative

business in buying fruit and shipping it to eastern markets.

In 1903 he heard the Dobbins ranch of 232 acres was being offered for sale. It was the oldest and largest fruit ranch in Vaca Valley, but he only had \$7000 and Dobbins was asking \$61,000 for the ranch.

In 1904 Uhl, in partnership with F.B. McKeivitt, purchased the ranch. In 1908 he purchased McKeivitt's interest.

C.J. Uhl had a great thirst for literature and could repeat prose and poetry hours on end. He also liked horses, and raised and trained many of Northern California's finest racing horses.

Among his studies was a fascination for the life of Abraham Lincoln, and he could at a moment's notice recite many of Lincoln's great speeches, along with his famous inaugural address.

The elder Uhl went through several depressions. The greatest one in the early 1930s practically wiped him out, but with the help of his son, Edwin, the two started the long road back.

As he advanced in years, C.J. Uhl gradually lost his sight. At the age of 90 he underwent a serious operation, but his recovery amazed medical men and in a short time he was back to normal health.

For many years he had been in rest



C.J. Uhl, a prominent fruit rancher and for 33 years a city councilman, is shown in this undated photograph holding his great-grandson Steven, with granddaughter Barbara standing at his side.

Vacaville Museum

homes in Vacaville and later in Sacramento.

His only survivor is his son, Edwin I. Uhl of Vacaville.

For 33 years Uhl served as a Vacaville city councilman, holding the title of mayor for 12 years.

Today, the Uhl home ranch has been

gobbled up by subdivisions, with only a small acreage remaining in the orchard. Hundreds of homes in the north section of Vacaville are on soil which C.J. Uhl tilled for over 50 years.

The Reporter
July 26, 1965

Final services performed for store owner Schaefer

Funeral services were held this afternoon at the McCune Garden Chapel for Ralph Schaefer, 91, retired Vacaville businessman who died at his Buck Avenue home on Monday.

The Rev. Henry MacFadden of the Community Presbyterian Church conducted the services. Also participating were members of Vacaville Masonic Lodge No. 134, of which Mr. Schaefer was a member.

Interment was in the Vacaville-Elmira Cemetery.

Mr. Schaefer was born in St. Paul, Minn., and the family came to California in 1883. He attended schools in San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose and Truckee.

He first came to Vacaville in 1901, to work in a dry goods store during the summer fruit season, returning to San Francisco following his local employment.

The following year he returned to Vacaville to work in George Arnold's grocery store, but not enthused with that type of work, he found employment with Walter Edwards in his men's store, in the building now used by Al Klotz Auto Parts. As Mr. Schaefer once related his life story: "Mr. Edwards had a clerk who drank too much, so I quit there and took a job in Auburn."

He returned to Vacaville in 1907 to

accept an interest in Edwards store. In later years he purchased Edwards' interest, and in 1917 purchased the Ed Crystal store on the corner of Main and Dobbins Street, which he renamed the Big Country Store, and which he operated until his retirement in 1937.

Mr. Schaefer, along with Bill Frahm, were responsible for the first paved street in Vacaville, which was Cernon Street. They contacted the property owners along the street, who all agreed to share the expense of paving.

Mr. Schaefer took an active interest in the fraternal and civic life of the community. He was a past patron of the Eastern Star, past master of Masonic Lodge No. 134; member of the Royal Arch, Knights Templar, Ben Ali Shrine and Islam Shrine.

Surviving are his wife Edna, the former Laura Edna Marshall of Vacaville, whom he married in 1913; a daughter, Laura White, of Berkeley; a brother, Erwin Schaefer, of Santa Paula; and six sisters, Bertha Berryman, San Leandro, Aemlia Madden and Freida Gist, Oakland; Hermena Custer, Menlo Park; Dr. Pauline Eickman, Carmel; and Mrs. John Flittner, Los Angeles. There are three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

The Reporter
Nov. 16, 1967

Ex-businessman Akerly, 92, dies

George Parry Akerly, 92, Vacaville's oldest ex-businessman, died in a Fairfield hospital Saturday.

Mr. Akerly was native of Oakland, the son of the late Rev. and Mrs.

Benjamin Akerly. Following the death of his parents, at which time he was eight years of age, he came to Vacaville to make his home with a sister, Mrs. Fred Buck.

Following his graduation from high school he purchased the Chittenden store at the corner of Main and Davis streets situated in the two story brick building which still stands and is now owned by Basic Vegetable Product. He operated his typical "country store" in that location for about 25 years, and then purchased the Fred Nay Mercantile Co. at the corner of Main and Dobbins streets, which he operated for many years. Older residents of the community will remember the slogan of the store:

"If you can't find it in Akerly's there is no use looking further." He later sold the store to one of his employees, the late A.A. Collier. The store and the entire building burned on the night of May 17, 1939.

In 1912 Mr. Akerly married Mary Will Frederick of Kentucky.

During his many years in business

in the community, Mr. Akerly was a

civic leader, and one of his most cherished accomplishments was leading local Boy Scout troops.

After selling his store, he accepted the position of superintendent of the Solano County Hospital at Fairfield, a job he held for seven years. Later he became city clerk of Vacaville, and held that position for five years.

At the time of his death, he was the oldest living former member of the Vacaville Fire Department.

The Reporter
Dec. 22, 1969



Bowman's
Stationers



John Bowman has become one of the city's newest businessmen with the purchase of a stationery store at 371 Merchant St. The firm now carries his name. Ambassadors on hand to welcome Bowman, and participating in the ribbon cutting ceremonies recently were (from left) Albert "Chic" Arauj, William Steiner, Don Pearson, Lyle Sinder, John Bowman, Thomas McNunn, Stephanie Stoesser, a Bowman employee; James Hanson, George Salkeld, Kim Chandler and Ethel Gilley.

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Del and Elizabeth had one child, a daughter named Barbara Ann. She grew up in the house they had built next to the funeral home, when they first came to Vacaville. With an added store front this family home is now Rose Florist. Barbara attended Vacaville grammar schools and graduated from Vaca High School in 1960. She and her parents were members of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Barbara remembers when it was located at the corner of Walnut and Merchant. In 1964 Barbara graduated from Dominican College in San Rafael with a BA in art and elementary education. For 28 years she was an educator in Larkspur-Corte Madera School District. She taught at every level from third grade through eight. Today Barbara continues to be the sole owner of the family business with the main goal of offering service and compassion to all in their time of need.

1960-1969

THE PAST CENTURY

Cars and trucks pass through the expansion of Highway 40 into Interstate 80 through Vacaville. This site is where the highway passes over Alamo Creek. Besides a ribbon of highway, the construction included overpasses and underpasses that allowed for more development south of the freeway.



Vacaville
Heritage Council

Parking on Main changes — again

Another change in the method of parking on Main Street in downtown Vacaville was approved Tuesday night by the Vacaville City Council — this time from diagonal to parallel. Involved is the south side of Main Street, between Cernon Street and a point about halfway to Parker Street, in front of McCune Garden Chapel. Until last year, parking in that block of Main Street was all parallel to the curb, but a request by four of the five merchants in the immediate area involved to initiate diagonal parking was honored by city council. McCune chapel had unsuccessfully opposed the request, and Tuesday, through a letter, requested reconsideration.

The method of parking in downtown Vacaville was debated at considerable lengths last year, and perhaps could be considered the year's most controversial subject. A decision, which was later effected, to convert all parking to parallel was made by council, in the interest of safety and to provide a smoother traffic flow.

That decision came under attack by about 30 downtown Vacaville merchants, who opposed on the grounds that parallel parking eliminated about one-half of the parking spaces. In the face of the overwhelming opposition by merchants directly affected, council later reversed its position and ordered parking again become diagonal. ... In a letter to city council, Del McCune asked reconsideration, and listed four reasons why parallel parking should be installed in front of the garden chapel.

Following a brief discussion, Councilman Berton Hassing introduced a motion to allow parallel parking in front of the chapel, saying the council had gone along with the other business community requests, and equal treatment should be accorded in this case. His motion gained unanimous approval.

The Reporter
Jan. 11, 1968

Down a whole new highway

\$5.4 million project promised

Opening now set

The State Highway Commission has included in its new budget for the year starting July 1, 1961, the sum of \$5,400,000 for the construction of 5.1 miles of six-lane freeway at Vacaville, which includes the construction of six major structures.

Vacaville civic leaders hail the promised road work as one of the greatest steps forward in the growth of the community because it will permit the expansion of the city across Highway 40 with free access over and under the structures to be built. At present, the heavy traffic on the highway, plus the lack of "stop" and "go" signals at any crossing, has had a tendency to keep the city's growth to the north of Highway 40.

To be included in the construction project, for which bids are expected to be called on June 1, are overpass structures at the Merchant Street Highway 40 intersection and at Davis Street, the improvement of the Mason Street

overpass, at Sacramento Street in the vicinity of the Reed Motel, a separation structure near the Nut Tree and an overpass at the Vacaville-Dunigan Road.

At present there are four lanes on Highway 40 in the Vacaville area, and the new work to be started next year will improve the road to a six-lane freeway, starting at a point 1.9 miles southwest of Vacaville and continuing for 5.1 miles to a point 1.2 miles northeast of the Vacaville-Dunigan cutoff.

When the work is completed, the highway will have been converted from an expressway to a freeway. Included in the California Highway Commission's \$633,460,812 budget for the new year is the sum of \$1,025,000 for right of way purchase in Solano County, some of which is necessary for the proposed work in the Vacaville area.

The Reporter
Oct. 28, 1960

Barring a spell of adverse weather, Vacaville's six-lane freeway will open this week, the Division of Highways announced today.

Resident Engineer H.R. Jantzen said efforts have been geared toward opening the freeway in time for the Labor Day weekend. The schedule, he reported, calls for:

- Opening the west-bound lanes from the Nut Tree westward Wednesday morning.
- Opening the new west-bound lanes from the Nut Tree eastward Thursday morning.

The event will signal virtual completion of the \$5.75 million project so far as the motoring

public is concerned, although six to eight weeks of "cleanup" and minor jobs remain, Jantzen reported.

Expected to take about three years for construction when the work was begun in December, 1961, the huge project will reach completion about two months short of that target, it was indicated.

Three lanes in each direction will be opened for traffic, with separation between them. Also to open are two more overcrossings at the Winters highway interchange complex.

The Reporter
Aug. 31, 1964

Fill 'er up!

Make it two tankfuls at these prices (right). The sign outside the Wilshire gas station at the intersection of Cernon and Merchant streets in downtown Vacaville told of a time long past, especially for anyone who would put gasoline in their vehicle by the end of this century.



Reporter file photo

Police get new cars

Vacaville will purchase two new police cars as the result of action taken Monday night at the City Council meeting.

Eleven dealers were contacted and requested to supply prices for two medium-priced four-door sedans. Envelopes containing their replies were publicly opened at 2 p.m. on Wednesday of last week.

Lewis Ford Sales submitted the lowest bid of \$2,459.87, compared to Stith Chevrolet's bid of \$3,020.78. These figures were for two Fairlane 500 four-door sedans and two Bel Air four-door sedans.

The two bidders were the only ones who replied out of the 11 contacted.

The Reporter
Jan. 13, 1961

Our music has been filling your Vacaville homes for decades.

Our History: 1960-1969...

Our 60's Were Great!

Our owner, Bill Carroll was leader of a local rock & roll band *The Impalas*. He did guitar & vocals, and some recordings. We opened our business Carrolls TV in a converted Gas station across the street from our present location in 1963. We merged with Jays Music on Parker St. in 1968.

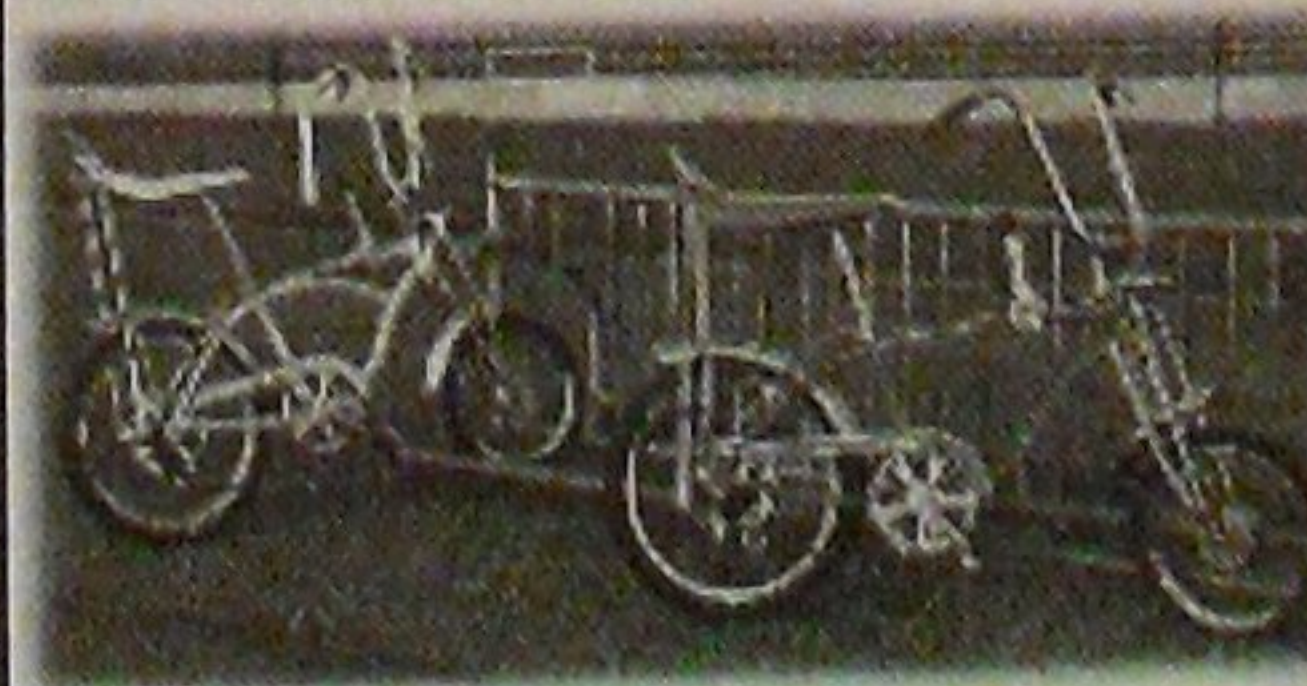


Impala Members: Dennis Thellin, Richie Puerta, Benny Stayton, Mike Barrick, Larry Sherwood & Bill Carroll

Vacaville Music
359 Merchant St., Vacaville
707-448-3651

Pedaling back the years

Of all the Schwinn Sting Rays, the Krates were the hottest and the most heavily outfitted for the imaginary drag strip. It had a "mag" sprocket, chrome-plated fenders, stick-shift lever spring-suspension front fork, and front aluminum drum expander brake. Schwinn called this the "world's most exciting concept in bicycles". It was a great seller, though the true race-worthy machines were coming from much smaller companies with a better understanding of the BMS phenomenon.



Ray's Cycle

400 Main St., Downtown Vacaville, 448-1911
1121 Texas St., Downtown Fairfield, 428-1911

BIRTHS

Andrew Albert Christian Edward, prince of Britain, 2/19/60
 John Elway, football player, 6/28/60
 Cal Ripken Jr., baseball player, 8/24/60
 Wayne Gretzky, hockey player, 1/26/61
 Eddie Murphy, comedian, 4/3/61
 Carl Lewis, track star, 7/1/61
 Garth Brooks, singer/musician, 2/7/62
 Tom Cruise, actor, 7/3/62
 Michael Jordan, basketball player, 2/17/63
 Nicolas Cage (born Nicholas Kim Coppola), actor, 1/7/64



BOOKS

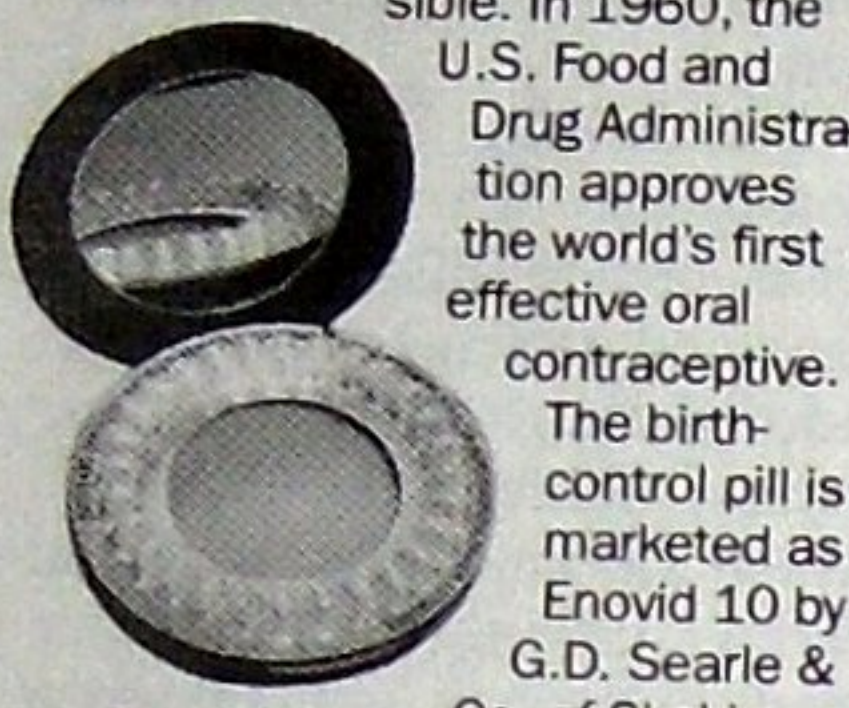
Poisoning the land

Environmental prophet and marine biologist Rachel Carson asks readers, in her bestseller "Silent Spring," to imagine a place where no birds sing, hens' eggs never hatch and apple trees bear no fruit — a place where cattle die mysteriously in the field and children on playgrounds. Such a scenario is not far-fetched, she argues, because of the use of such artificial pesticides as DDT. "Silent Spring" alerts millions to the dangers of poisons that in recent decades have become commonplace on farms and in households.

MEDICINE

Women get The Pill

A sexual revolution is about to erupt in this new, tumultuous decade, and science makes it possible. In 1960, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approves the world's first effective oral contraceptive.



The birth-control pill is marketed as Enovid 10 by G.D. Searle & Co. of Skokie, Ill. The contraceptive, which becomes known as "The Pill," costs about \$11 per month. The Pill, says Katherine McCormick, a wealthy heiress who helped support research on the contraceptive, gives women mastery over "that ol' devil, the female reproductive system."

CELEBRITIES



A British invasion

It's the most raucous British invasion since the War of 1812. But instead of torching the White House, these four Britons plunder the hearts of gaggles of screaming young females in 1964. The invasion begins on a blustery Feb. 7, when about 3,000 teens, mostly girls, converge on New York's Kennedy International Airport to greet the Liverpool pop group called the Beatles. The thick-thatched foursome — Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, John Lennon and George Harrison (above) — become instant celebrities. Their appearance on Ed Sullivan's variety show brings the highest ratings in TV history. They sell 2.5 million albums in less than a month and pack every stadium and concert hall they play.

Death of a goddess

On Aug. 5, 1962, at age 36, the cinema goddess born as Norma Jean Baker and known to the world as Marilyn Monroe is found dead at her Los Angeles home, a bottle of sleeping pills at her side. Police hesitate to call it a suicide, but Monroe's psychoanalyst says she had tried to kill herself twice before. Beginning her rags-to-riches career as a model, Monroe dyed her hair blond for a shampoo commercial and scored her screen breakthrough in "Niagara." Her marriages to New York Yankees star Joe DiMaggio and playwright Arthur Miller both failed. As her personal life slid downward, Monroe became more dependent on drugs. Also about this time, rumors circulated about affairs with Attorney General Robert Kennedy and his brother, President John F. Kennedy.



1960-1964

MILLENNIUM NOTEBOOK

1960

Feb. 1: Four black college students in Greensboro, N.C., make purchases in Woolworth's and then sit at the "whites only" counter and order coffee. Upon being refused service, they remain seated. Their "sit-in" inspires similar actions across the South.

Feb. 11: Jack Paar, protesting censorship of one of his jokes, walks off his TV show. He agrees to return to NBC on March 7.



Lucille Ball, Desi Jr. and Desi Arnaz

March 3: "I Love Lucy" stars and real-life couple Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz announce their separation and plans for divorce.

March 21: In white-ruled South Africa, police open fire on black demonstrators in the Johannesburg suburb of Sharpeville. The fusillade kills 56 demonstrators and wounds 162, including 16 who die later. The Sharpeville Massacre will become a watershed in the black majority's struggle against white-minority rule.

March 29: A jury sentences Richard Hickock and Perry Smith to death for the killings of Herbert Clutter, wife Bonnie, daughter Nancy and son Kenyon. The family died from shotgun blasts in their home in Holcomb, Kan., on Nov. 15, 1959. The murders and trial will become the subject of Truman Capote's "In Cold Blood."

May 1: A Soviet missile brings down a Lockheed U-2 piloted by Francis Gary Powers for the CIA as the spy plane cruises above the Soviet Union. In a trial broadcast worldwide, the Soviets convict Powers of espionage. He is sentenced to 10 years' "deprivation of freedom" but is exchanged for Soviet spy Rudolph Abel in 1962.

May 6: Britain's Princess Margaret marries photographer Antony Armstrong-Jones, a commoner, in Westminster Abbey.



Eichmann, who oversaw the Holocaust. Eichmann will be found guilty and hanged May 31, 1962. His last words: "I was just following orders."

June 1: The National Council of Churches condemns the "pathological preoccupation with sex and violence" in movies and television.

Sept. 26: In the first televised presidential debate, a tired, underprepared Vice President Richard M. Nixon appears wan and combative next to the calm, telegenic Sen. John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Three debates later, the Nov. 8 election is razor-close: Kennedy wins with 49.7 percent of the popular vote to Nixon's 49.6 percent.

1961

Jan. 3: Washington breaks diplomatic ties with Cuba, where two years earlier Fidel Castro staged a revolution that took the nation into the Soviet camp.

Jan. 20: The newly inaugurated 35th president, John F. Kennedy, outlines for the nation a future fraught with challenge and danger. "In the long history of the world only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility — I welcome it," Kennedy says.

Feb. 22: The National Council of Churches endorses birth



President and Jacqueline Kennedy arrive in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Camelot's last day

Newspapers on Nov. 23, 1963, carry the news of that heartbreaking Friday in Dallas. "Bullet Strikes President's Head," says the headline on a bulletin inserted atop Page One of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Reporter Ed Johnson writes: "We in the bus did not know immediately what had happened. We could see spectators lining the route fall to the ground as the shots rang out. A woman roughly knocked her two children to the ground. A man, apparently her husband, lay beside them, pounding his fist into the earth."

The ensuing hours are filled with confusion and panic. The shooting occurs at 12:15 p.m. (CT) on Nov. 22 as the president's black Lincoln convertible swoops down Elm Street in front of the Texas School Book Depository. The president is pronounced dead at 1 p.m. at Parkland Memorial Hospital. By

control to prevent pregnancy.

April 12: Cosmonaut Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin, 27, is launched into Earth orbit from a secret Soviet complex in Central Asia.



May 4: Two buses loaded with members of the Congress of Racial Equality head south from Washington, D.C. At each stop, the black bus riders try to use segregated facilities. Their aim is to get the Kennedy administration to enforce a Supreme Court ruling that segregation of bus terminals and stations serving interstate travelers is unconstitutional. The trips become known as Freedom Rides.

May 9: The chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Newton Minow, issues an indictment of TV programming: "You will see a vast wasteland: a procession of game shows, violence, audience participation shows, formula comedies about totally unbelievable families... blood and thunder... mayhem, violence, sadism, murder... private eyes, more violence, and cartoons... and, endlessly, commercials..."

June 3-4: At a meeting in Vienna with President Kennedy, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev stages a chilling display of bellicosity and leaves the president worried about Soviet intentions. After the meeting, Kennedy says that the encounter was the "roughest thing in my life. ... He just beat hell out of me."

June 17: Rudolf Nureyev, a promising star in Leningrad's Kirov Ballet, requests asylum in the West. His defection is a coup for the West — and for Nureyev. Within a week, he is one of the highest-paid dancers in Europe.

Aug. 13: Soldiers string barbed wire across the occupied metropolis of East Berlin, separating the communist east from the capitalist west. Eventually,

1:45, Dallas police arrest a 24-year-old school book depository employee named Lee Harvey Oswald in a movie theater, where he has fled after the shooting of a police officer.

Oswald, a Marine veteran who has spent time in the Soviet Union, is fatally shot two days later by nightclub owner Jack Ruby in the basement of the Dallas city jail as police are moving Oswald to safer quarters. Millions watch on television.

In Dallas, officials receive thousands of calls from around the world berating the city and ultra-conservatives who protested JFK's visit. A Star-Telegram editorial urges faith in the new president, Lyndon Johnson, and expresses the sentiments of a multitude of Americans: "It is as if we all stood in a bad dream, watching the hand of fate write out one of the blackest chapters in our history."



The Cuban flag

13 days of fear

The nuclear genie nearly escapes from the bottle during 13 anxious days in October 1962, as the United States and the Soviet Union teeter on the brink of war.

Oct. 16: President Kennedy is given photographs that prove the Soviets have installed ballistic missiles in Cuba, only 90 miles from U.S. soil.

Oct. 22: In a televised address, Kennedy announces that a naval blockade of Cuba will take effect in two days.

Oct. 25: Adlai E. Stevenson, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, displays U-2 surveillance photographs to members of the U.N. Security Council.

Oct. 27: In an exchange of messages between Moscow and Washington, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev offers to remove the Cuban missile bases, under U.N. supervision, and demands that the United States remove missiles from Turkey.

Oct. 28: Khrushchev agrees to withdraw his missiles from Cuba and halt construction of missile bases on the island. Kennedy agrees to lift the blockade and pledges that the United States will not invade Cuba.

the barbed wire is replaced by concrete walls, electrified fences and sentry towers and is called the Berlin Wall.

Sept. 5: President Kennedy makes air piracy a federal crime punishable by death or imprisonment. The legislation is prompted by a new breed of pirate, a hijacker who commandeers a flight and orders it to such places as Cuba.

Oct. 1: Roger Maris hits his 61st home run against the Boston

Red Sox in the last game of the season at a half-empty Yankee Stadium. The round-tripper catapults Maris into the record books as the first slugger to break Babe Ruth's 1927 record of 60 home runs in a single season. But Maris runs the bases with little fanfare. Baseball Commissioner Ford Frick has ruled that, in order to break Ruth's record, a player must hit 61 home runs in 154 games — the same number of games in which Ruth hit 60. The American League has added two teams in 1961, forcing the regular season to 162 games.



Maris

1962

Feb. 20: John H. Glenn Jr. rides his Mercury capsule, Friendship 7, into space to become the first American to orbit the Earth.

March 2: Wilt Chamberlain of the Philadelphia Warriors becomes the first basketball player to score 100 points in a game.

March 7: Britain's Royal College of Physicians concludes that cigarette smoking is a cause of lung cancer.

April 16: Walter Cronkite makes his debut as anchorman on the "CBS Evening News."

June 3: An Air France jetliner crashes upon takeoff just outside Paris, killing all 130 aboard. It is the worst air disaster to date involving a single plane.

July 10: Telstar I, an AT&T communications satellite, is launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla. An American flag atop an AT&T building in Maine becomes the first live TV image transmitted across the Atlantic.

Aug. 17: East German police shoot Peter Fechter as he tries to scale the Berlin Wall. The 18-year-old East German becomes the first casualty of the barrier.

Sept. 10: Mal Goode becomes the first black network TV correspondent, working for ABC.

Sept. 29: The longest-running musical in Broadway history, "My Fair Lady," closes after 2,717 performances.

Sept. 30: Federal marshals flock to the University of Mississippi in Oxford to ensure that James H. Meredith, a black Air Force veteran, gets settled into his dorm. Meredith earlier had tried to enter the school for classes, but Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett blocked his entry and led a white-supremacy rally. Upon the marshals' arrival, a riot ensues. The next day, federal troops are sent to quell the fighting. By the time order is restored, dozens have been injured and two civilians are dead.

Oct. 1: Johnny Carson replaces Steve Allen as host of NBC's "Tonight" show.

Oct. 11: Pope John XXIII opens the Second Vatican Council with the aim of updating the church.

Dec. 14: After a 109-day trip that covered 180 million miles, Mariner 2 relays close-up photos of Venus.

1963

April 10: The nuclear-powered submarine USS Thresher sinks in 8,400 feet of water during sea trials off Cape Cod, killing all 129 men aboard. The accident is the worst involving a submarine in U.S. naval history.

June 3: Pope John XXIII dies at age 81 and is succeeded by Cardinal Giovanni Batista Montini, 66, who becomes Pope Paul VI.

June 12: White supremacist Byron de la Beckwith guns down civil rights activist Medgar Evers, 37, in the driveway of his home.

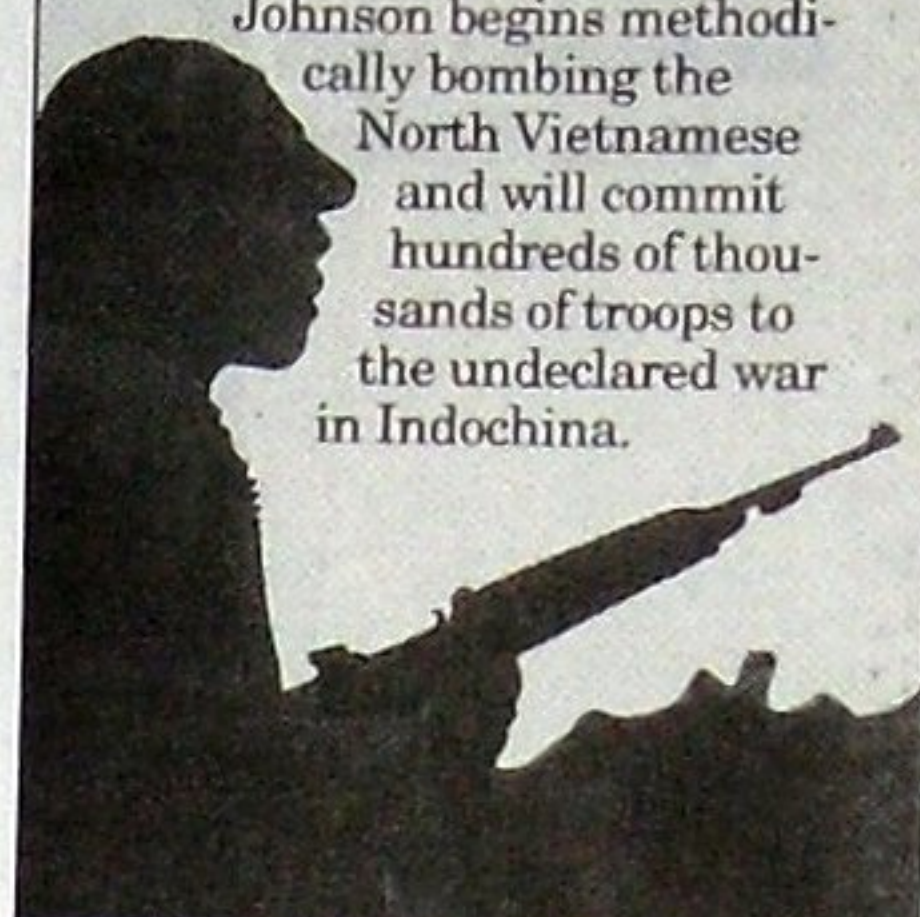
June 17: The U.S. Supreme Court rules that reading the Lord's Prayer or the Bible in public schools is unconstitutional.

Into the fire

If the United States needs a reason to jump into Vietnam with both feet, it finds it when two U.S. destroyers, patrolling in the Gulf of Tonkin off communist North Vietnam, are attacked Aug. 2, 1964, by North Vietnamese torpedo boats. The United States says that the vessels were in international waters and that the attacks were unprovoked.

On Aug. 7, Congress passes the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, authorizing President Johnson "to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression." The resolution allows the president to escalate U.S. involvement without a formal declaration of war.

The tough stance against communism resonates with Americans. In the Nov. 3 election, Johnson defeats Republican challenger Barry M. Goldwater, an Arizona senator, in a record-breaking landslide: 486 electoral votes to 52. Using the Gulf of Tonkin resolution and the election as a mandate, Johnson begins methodically bombing the North Vietnamese and will commit hundreds of thousands of troops to the undeclared war in Indochina.



Aug. 28: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. outlines his dream of a multiracial society while standing before the Lincoln Memorial, where nearly 300,000 people gathered for the March on Washington.

Aug. 30: An emergency "hot line" between Washington and Moscow goes into service. The link's purpose is to reduce the risk of accidental war.

Sept. 15: Four black schoolgirls — Carole Robertson, Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley and Denise McNair — are killed when a bomb explodes during services at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.

Nov. 1: The government of President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam is overthrown by the military of the Southeast Asian nation. Diem is killed.

1964



Clay

his strategy — "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee" — and hammers Liston in a bout in Miami Beach. Two days later, Clay announces he is a member of the Black Muslims and that his name is Cassius X, later to become Muhammad Ali.

March 13: A man attacks Catherine "Kitty" Genovese as she walks to her apartment in Queens, N.Y. Thirty-eight neighbors hear her calls for help, and some watch from their windows, but nobody wants to get involved. The police aren't called until after she is dead.

March 14: Jack Ruby is sentenced to death for killing Lee Harvey Oswald, alleged assassin of President Kennedy.

July 2: President Lyndon Baines Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law. Johnson also declares "war on poverty," wins approval for a tax-cut bill, oversees a settlement in a railroad strike and achieves an agreement with the Soviets on curbing nuclear-arms production. His full-speed-ahead approach helps nurse the nation back to normalcy after Kennedy's assassination.

Oct. 14: Civil-rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Nov. 4: Police in Cambridge, Mass., arrest Albert Henry DeSalvo, later to be called "the Boston Strangler." In 1967, DeSalvo will be sentenced to life imprisonment for armed robbery, assault and sex offenses. For lack of evidence, he is not tried for the murders.

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1965

■ **Jan. 20:** Lyndon Baines Johnson, who became the nation's 36th president upon the assassination of John F. Kennedy, is inaugurated.

■ **Feb. 21:** Black Nationalist founder Malcolm X, 39, is assassinated by rival Black Muslims while addressing a gathering in New York. Two days after his death, Black Muslim headquarters in San Francisco and New York are burned.



Malcolm X

■ **March 7:** Black marchers begin a "walk for freedom," a 50-mile journey by foot along U.S. 80 from Selma, a small town in Alabama, to Montgomery. They are attacked along the way by about 200 Alabama state troopers using tear gas, whips and nightsticks.

■ **April 11:** A rash of tornadoes rages through the Midwest, killing 271 and causing damage estimated at \$235 million.

■ **April 15:** About 15,000 young people picket outside the White House, demanding withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam.

■ **June 3:** Astronauts James McDivitt and Edward White are blasted into orbit for a four-day flight that features the first space-walk by an American.

■ **July 30:** President Johnson signs legislation that expands the Medicare-Social Security program to provide hospital care, home nursing services and outpatient diagnostic services to Americans 65 and older.

■ **Aug. 11:** A white police officer in the Watts section of Los Angeles stops a black man suspected of driving while intoxicated. The incident escalates into five days of violence, which leaves at least 34 people dead, hundreds injured, more than 200 businesses destroyed and property damage estimated at up to \$200 million.

■ **Sept. 9:** Sandy Koufax of the Los Angeles Dodgers pitches a perfect game against the Chicago Cubs, only the eighth perfect game in baseball history.

■ **Sept. 15:** Bill Cosby becomes the first African-American to star in a weekly TV drama when "I Spy" makes its debut on NBC.

■ **Oct. 4:** Pope Paul VI visits New York on a historic, 14-hour peace mission. He celebrates Mass at Yankee Stadium, visits the New York World's Fair and addresses the U.N. General Assembly, declaring: "No more war, war never again!"

■ **Oct. 17:** The New York World's Fair closes. In its two-year run, the fair had the largest total attendance of any international exposition, 51,607,037.

■ **Nov. 9:** During the height of the evening rush hour, the lights that illuminate New York City flicker — and then go black. The blackout affects an 80,000-square-mile area comprising New York, most of New England, parts of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec. It lasts as long as 13 hours in some areas. The blackout will be credited with an increase in births in the Northeast nine months later.

1966

■ **Jan. 17:** A U.S. B-52 bomber collides with a KC-135 refueling plane over Almeria, Spain. Eight crew members die, and an H-bomb dislodges and falls into the Mediterranean Sea, panicking Spaniards who fear a radiation leak. Finally, on April 7, the Navy locates the H-bomb. Except for a few nicks, the 21-foot, 13-ton bomb is intact.

■ **Jan. 19:** Indira Gandhi, daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister after independence, is elected prime minister after the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri.

■ **Feb. 3:** The Soviet Luna 9 spacecraft lands on the moon. The first soft landing — as opposed to a crash landing — paves the way for manned moon landings.

■ **April 11:** Jack Nicklaus becomes the first golfer to win consecutive Masters tournaments.

■ **April 18:** Bill Russell becomes the first black coach in professional sports, taking over the Boston Celtics. He will also continue to play for the team.

1965-1969

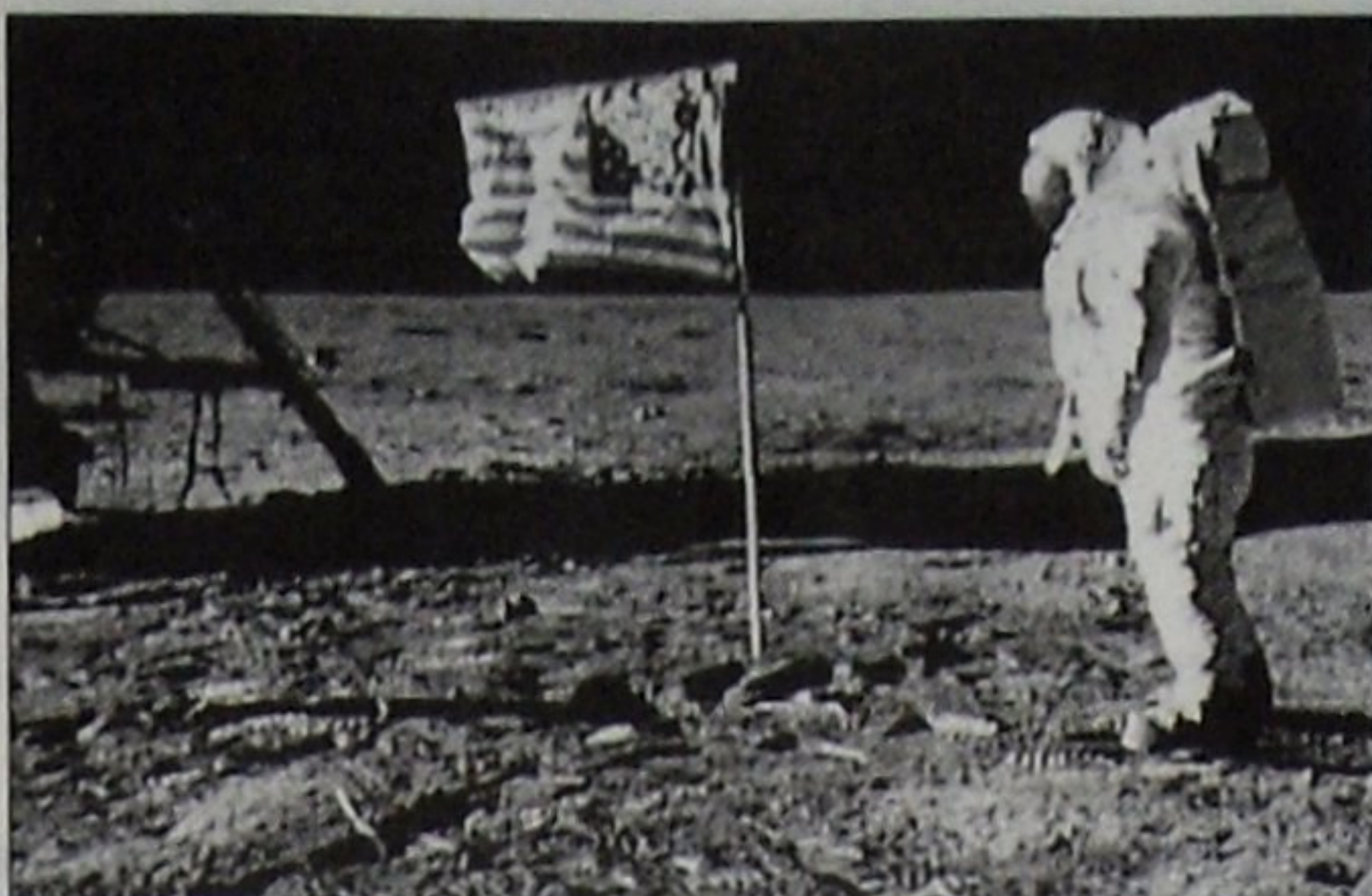
MILLENNIUM NOTEBOOK

A man on the moon

Throughout the world on a wondrous July Sunday, people gather around radios and TV screens, waiting — with a sense of awe — for what is arguably the most significant event of the 20th century: The human species is setting foot on a world beyond its own.

At 4:17:42 p.m. (ET), July 20, 1969, the four spindly legs of the lunar module, named Eagle, touch down on the powdery surface of the moon. The words sound tinny and muffled after a journey across the vastness of space, but they are electrifying. "Houston, Tranquility Base here," says Apollo 11 commander Neil Armstrong. "The Eagle has landed."

At ballgames and picnics, on street corners and living rooms, wherever there might be a transis-



"Buzz" Aldrin Jr. stands beside the U.S. flag, planted next to the lunar module.

tor radio or a TV, people whoop and cheer — or weep — filled with pride and wonder. At 10:56:20 (ET), Armstrong puts the first human footprint on the moon. "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," he says, inadvertently dropping the "a" before "man."

An estimated 528 million people, the largest TV audience ever, watch as a ghostly white figure makes the first steps in a barren, alien landscape. He is followed down the lunar module's ladder by Air Force Col. Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. They plant an American flag, collect rock samples, snap photographs and

gambol about in the moon's light gravity, one-sixth that of Earth's.

After 21½ hours on the Sea of Tranquility, the lunar module's top section blasts off the surface and rejoins the command ship, which is circling in lunar orbit with Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Collins aboard.

The journey back to Earth is almost anticlimactic. But the astronauts' stature and achievement transcend national boundaries. A plaque placed at Tranquility Base says: "Here men from planet Earth first set foot upon the moon, July, 1969 A.D. We came in peace for all mankind."

Assassinations stun nation

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., a prophet of nonviolence and racial brotherhood, is gunned down April 4, 1968, in Memphis on the second-floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel.

The 39-year-old civil rights leader was in Memphis to organize support for 1,300 sanitation workers who had been striking since Feb. 12.

The assassination triggers rioting in more than 100 communities, resulting in 46 deaths. Tennessee Gov. Buford Ellington mobilizes 4,000 National Guard troops to keep the peace, and a curfew is imposed in Memphis. Frank Holloman, Memphis police director, says the assassin may have been a white man who was "50 to 100 yards away in a flophouse." Police find a suitcase containing a rifle and scope in front of the building.

On April 17, a white man identi-



King and Kennedy

fied as "Eric Starvo Galt," an alias of Illinois-born James Earl Ray, is charged in the slaying. Ray remains at large until June 8, when he is arrested in London as he is about to fly to Belgium.

Less than two months after the King slaying, the nation is rocked by another assassination. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is shot in the head in Los Angeles early June 5 after winning the California primary in his quest for the Democratic presidential nomination. Kennedy's brother-in-law and a TV newsmen also are wounded.

As Kennedy fights for his life, the assailant is identified as Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, a Jerusalem-born Jordanian who had lived since boyhood in Pasadena, Calif.

Kennedy dies early June 6, surrounded by his wife, Ethel, three of his 10 children, two sisters, friends and Jacqueline Kennedy, widow of President John F. Kennedy.

■ **May 1:** Elvis Presley and Priscilla Beaulieu are married in Las Vegas.

■ **May 28:** Francis Chichester, 65, sails into Plymouth, England, aboard his 53-foot ketch Gypsy Moth IV after a 28,500-mile trip. It is the first round-the-world solo voyage with only one stop — Sydney, Australia.

■ **June 20:** Muhammad Ali is sentenced to five years in prison for refusing induction into the Army. He was stripped of his boxing championship in April.

■ **Aug. 30:** The Senate approves President Johnson's appointment of Thurgood Marshall to the Supreme Court. He is the first black high court justice.



Wenner

■ **Nov. 9:** With \$7,000 borrowed from an uncle, Jann Wenner, 21, launches Rolling Stone. The debut cover has a portrait of John Lennon wearing a World War II-vintage British helmet.

■ **Dec. 3:** South African heart surgeon Christian Barnard and a team of 30 assistants take the heart from brain-dead accident victim Denise Ann Davall and "transplant" it into the chest of Louis Washansky. The operation is the world's first successful human heart transplant.

■ **June 5:** Full-scale war breaks out after months of sporadic conflict between Israel and its Arab neighbors. In six days of warfare, Israel breaks the back of Arab air power and captures the West Bank of the Jordan River, the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula and the Old City of Jerusalem. The Six-Day War ends with a cease-fire June 10 and establishes Israel as a power to be reckoned with.

1968

■ **Jan. 23:** The spy ship USS Pueblo is confronted by North Korean patrol boats. The Pueblo becomes the first U.S. ship to strike its colors in enemy presence since the Civil War. One crew member dies during the ship's capture; the other men are released Dec. 23.

■ **March 16:** At a South Vietnamese hamlet called My Lai, a massacre is carried out by members of Charlie Company, 11th Brigade, Americal Division. The soldiers are accused of killing at least 109 and possibly 567 civilians — including babies.

■ **March 29:** Warner Bros.-Seven Arts announces that Gordon Parks will direct "The Learning Tree," making him the first African-American to direct a film for a major studio.



BIRTHS

Scottie Pippen, basketball player, 9/25/65
Cindy Crawford, model, 2/20/66
Mike Tyson, boxer, 6/30/66
Kurt Cobain, singer/musician, 2/20/67
Julia Roberts, actress, 10/28/67
Celine Dion, singer, 3/30/68
Will Smith, rapper/actor, 9/25/68
Steffi Graf, tennis player, 6/14/69



DEATHS

■ **Sir Winston Churchill,** Britain's indomitable World War II leader and perhaps the greatest Englishman of the 20th century, dies Jan. 24, 1965, in London after a stroke at age 90. Leaders from 110 nations attend the funeral at St. Paul's Cathedral.

■ **Dr. Albert Schweitzer,** German-born musician, physician and humanitarian, dies Sept. 4, 1965, at age 90 in Lambarene, Gabon. Known for his walrus mustache, pith helmet and black bow tie, Schweitzer opened the hospital in Lambarene in West Africa in 1913 and lived there until his death. He was awarded the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize.

SPORTS

Miracles in the Big Apple

Two New York teams, the Jets of the American Football League and the Mets of baseball's National League, chart Cinderella seasons in this year of the underdog. Rising to national fame are a flamboyant quarterback named Joe Namath and a soft-spoken pitcher from Alvin, Texas, named Nolan Ryan. Namath, a college standout at the University of Alabama, has a reputation for cockiness, which is enhanced when he predicts victory for the Jets over the mighty Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III. But Namath backs up his boast, completing 17 of 28 passes as the Jets defeat the Colts, 16-7, on Jan. 15 and become the first AFL team to win a championship.



Coaches look on as Nolan Ryan throws practice pitches.

The pitching of fastball specialist Ryan helped the "Miracle Mets" get to the World Series against the heavy-hitting Baltimore Orioles. The Mets lose the Series opener but sweep the next four games. Ryan joins forces with pitcher Gary Gentry for a shutout in the third game. The Mets' championship, their first, is a highlight of baseball's 100th anniversary year.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Woodstock spirit

In a field near Bethel, N.Y., a new "nation" is conceived during the long weekend of Aug. 15-18. It is dedicated to the proposition that all young people are entitled to free music, free food and — for those who want them — drugs. The Woodstock Music and Art Fair — or simply Woodstock — is a disastrously underplanned concert event that becomes a touchstone for the burgeoning counterculture as well as the largest event of its kind.

Woodstock becomes a free "happening" when organizers and New York state police underestimate the turnout: 200,000 to 300,000 show up, trampling fences and overwhelming attempts to control access to the site. Traffic is so bad that helicopters are pressed into service to deliver food, water, medicine and even the performers. There is both a conventional first-aid tent and a Freak-Out Tent for drug overdoses. The fact that only three deaths are reported is considered remarkable. Even a rainstorm does not dampen the spirit.

PRODUCTS

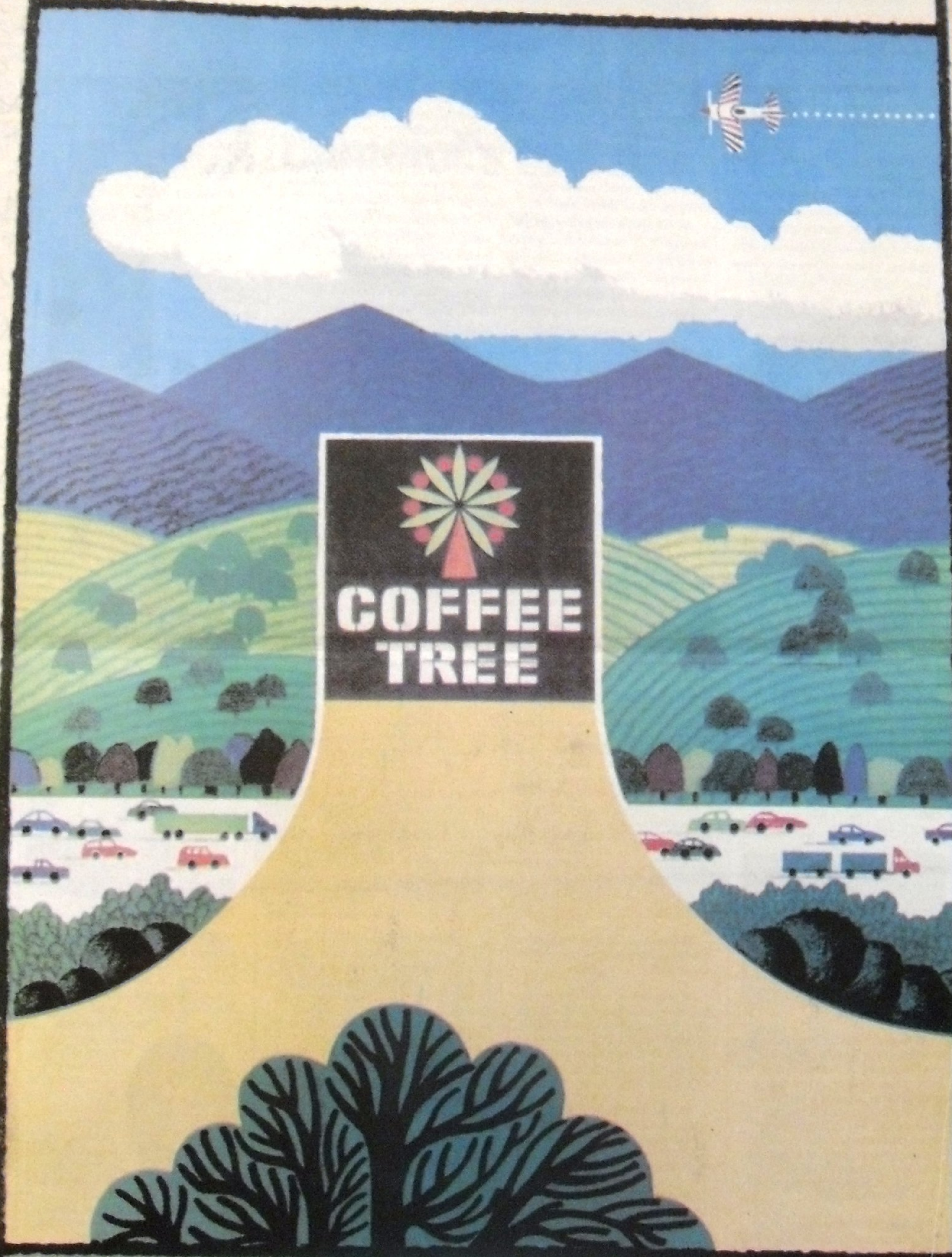
New in 1969:
■ Boeing 747 jumbo jet; first commercial flight Dec. 2 from Seattle to New York.
■ Penthouse magazine.
■ Automatic teller machines, at Chemical Bank, New York.

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